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Five finalists for Heisman Trophy announced

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20 years in bluegrass help inspire singer

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Alison Krauss

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Quality-of-life issues concern top NCOs

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Rumsfeld expects Army to fix armor problem

Marines in Fallujah 'get by' with what they have

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TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers modified this unarmored Humvee with a "Lick Kit" of steel plates to give it a more robust look. That's important, they say, because the harder the vehicle looks, the less likely insurgents are to single it out for attack. The Pentagon said Wednesday it is rushing armored Humvees and armor plates to Iraq as fast as manufacturers can provide them. Earlier Wednesday, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was publicly asked by a soldier in Kuwait why armored vehicles were not available to his unit.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Nation

Washington governor recount: Sitting at a folding table under fluorescent lights, Republican Lloyd Haskins Sr. held up ballots for Democrat Carl Brownstein to see, and they both marked their running totals on white scrap paper. They took part Wednesday in a hand recount of 2.9 million votes to determine the winner of the closest gubernatorial race in state history.

A machine recount found Republican Dino Rossi to be the winner by 42 votes over Democrat Christine Gregoire. The hand recount is the final tally allowed by state law.

Each paid team of two vote-counters and one recorder included one person recruited by the local Democratic Party and one recruited by the GOP.

States' budget fluctuations: States' finances are finally picking up, a new report says, with bursts of revenue in nearly every region of the country. But the good news comes with warnings that spending pressures are still so high they could unravel the gains.

Medicaid and other health-related costs top the list of financial worries, state budget leaders reported Thursday. And the borrowing, cuts and scaled-back spending of the last few years have left most states in worse shape than when the economy went south three years ago.

Durst sentencing: A millionaire New York real estate heir acquitted last year of murdering a Galveston Island neighbor faces sentencing later this month on weapons possession charges in Texas.

Under the agreement Durst and his lawyers reached on three federal weapons possession charges, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania said Tuesday that the defendant would accept a nine-month prison term followed by two years of supervised release in exchange for guilty pleas.

Peterson sentencing: With a photograph of a pregnant Laci Peterson displayed behind him, a prosecutor in Redwood City, Calif., urged jurors Thursday to sentence Scott Peterson to death, saying the date marked the two-year anniversary of his "monstrous plan" to murder his wife.

Scott Peterson's mother testified Wednesday that Laci "became like a daughter to us," adding that the 27-year-old schoolteacher was a perfect match for her son. Her tearful plea to save her son's life moved at least two jurors in his murder trial to tears.

World

Ukraine protests: Protesters lifted their siege of Ukraine's government building Thursday as tensions following weeks of demonstrations ebbed with parliament's adoption of electoral reform before a new presidential runoff vote at the end of the month.

Opposition leaders said the barricades,



Annan investigation: U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, left, smiles during a meeting of the General Assembly on Wednesday. Jean Ping, center, of Gabon, the president of the 59th session of the General Assembly, and Chen Jian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, joined in a standing ovation. Annan won the ovation as a rare public display of support in response to recent calls for his resignation from many U.S. lawmakers. Diplomats, including U.S. deputy ambassador Patrick Kennedy, cheered despite President Bush's refusal to back Annan pending results of a probe into alleged corruption in the U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq.

which prevented senior civil servants from reaching their offices, were no longer necessary and that the real fight now was the campaign for the revote of the runoff election, set for Dec. 26.

Madrid bombings: Police have arrested a Syrian and an Egyptian in the March 11 train bombings in Madrid, Spain, that killed 191 people, the interior minister said Thursday.

The two were arrested Wednesday in Iran, near Spain's border with France, were identified as Adnan Waki, 28, of Syria, and Ahmed Ibrahim Kassem, 27, of Egypt, said Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said. Waki had links with five of the seven people suspected in the bombings, Alonso said.

Musharraf assassination plot: A court in Karachi, Pakistan, said police would be allowed to question an alleged Islamic militant accused of playing a role in a failed plot to kill President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, a prosecution lawyer said.

An outlawed Islamic militant group tried

detonate a car bomb on a road while Musharraf's motorcade passed on April 26, 2002, but their remote-controlled device malfunctioned and no one was hurt.

War on terrorism

Firefighter's funeral: Thousands of firefighters lined up outside a Bronx church Thursday in New York for the funeral of a fellow firefighter killed last week in Iraq when his Army National Guard unit was attacked outside Baghdad.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Gov. George Pataki, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta were also expected to attend the funeral Mass for Sgt. Christian Engeldrum.

Engeldrum, 39, a five-year fire veteran and former police officer who served with Leidler Co. 61 in the Co-op City section of the Bronx, was the first city employee to die in Iraq since the U.S.-led war began in March 2003.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Correction

A story in Thursday's edition about a Wiesbaden-area soldier, Pvt. Nestor K. Velazquez, charged with fatally stabbing a man at a local nightclub contained incorrect information. The soldier's blood was not found on the victim's T-shirt.

Clarification

Text accompanying photos of ballet dancers in Thursday's edition omitted information about where the performance had taken place. The dancers were performing Peter Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" at the Wetzel Theater in Baumholder, Germany.

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EUCOM focuses on quality-of-life issues

By CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

GARMISCH, Germany — After three days of discussing the biggest problems facing U.S. troops and their families, the top enlisted leaders in Europe know it's up to them to find the solution.

The command sergeants major said participants at this week's U.S. European Command Quality of Life Conference walked away with more than just another binder, pocketful of business cards and pretty photographs of the Bavarian Alps.

They left with a mission: take care of the troops.

"We have some of the brightest kids in the United States," said Marine Command Sgt. Maj. John Mersino of the U.S. European Command. "You can't retain these guys if you blow them off. You can't retain them if you don't take care of them."

So the credibility issue is on our shoulders now to take these issues forward, address them, and find solutions for as many as we possibly can."

The conference, held Monday through Wednesday at the Edelweiss Lodge, was to air concerns about pay, housing, medical care and other issues. The issues were discussed and prioritized and recommendations were made.

Among those in attendance to hear the recommendations were EUCOM Chief of Staff Army Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater III, and Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Defense for Military Personnel Policy William J. Carr.

Mersino said that U.S. troops, especially young ones who are fighting in wars, are given great responsibilities and are often compensated as well as, or better than, employees in the private sector.

"We have 18-, 19-year-old kids who make decisions involving human life on the battlefield," Mersino said. "Those decisions are life-or-death decisions."

Some of the issues sions any CEO in any major corporation would be used instead by their spouses and children. Another suggestion was to allow accrued education benefits not used by servicemembers to be used instead by their spouses and children.

Tending to family needs helps the warfighter stay focused, according to Marine Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael, senior noncommissioned officer at NATO's Allied Command Operations.

"If I know the medical requirements for my family are being taken care of when I deploy, I can focus on my mission," McMichael said.

"When I know my child is getting the proper education and my spouse is getting educational opportunities, that makes me more efficient to do the things I have taken an oath to do."

Command Master Chief Paul Knauser, a Navy SEAL and the top NCO for Special Operations Command Europe, said he was confident that steps would be taken as a result of the conference.

"The terminology I hear used more and more often is the '30-year career,'" Knauser said. "To make the military as attractive [an employer] as a Fortune 500 company, they're going to have to do things ... to address the whole family to keep people in for that long."

"I have absolute certainty these individuals who are here are going to take these back and address them. If there is a slowing down of inertia, then it's our responsibility to prod and poke and make sure the answers do come out."

Top issues were then given recommendations on how to fix the problem.

For example, for spouses look-

ing for work, it was suggested that military communities create a hub for local job opportunities. Currently, in some cases, job-seekers are forced to plow through worldwide listings to find positions in their area.

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For example, for spouses look-

DODDS seeks \$10 million to offer summer classes

GARMISCH, Germany — Last year, after 1st Armored Division soldiers were told they'd be returning in Iraq longer than expected, schools were opened in the summer to help keep their kids busy.

Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Baumholder, Giessen, Hanau and Wiesbaden stayed open for four weeks for students in kindergarten through eighth grades until the soldiers returned to Germany in late July.

DODDS officials are asking the Defense Department for up to \$10 million to pay for summer school in Europe and Asia in anticipation of troops being deployed. They said they'd need to know by Jan. 31 if the funding was coming in order to start registering students and lining up teachers and other staff.

The potential need was one of the issues raised this week at the U.S. European Command Quality of Life Conference. "We need to get a resolution to funding and other issues early enough to develop a program," said Dr. Joseph Tafaya, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity, which oversees DODDS. "That way, we can let the command and the schools and our teachers know what we need to do next summer, or if we need to do anything."

Tafaya said the requested funding would pay for summer school in Europe and Asia. Stateside DOD schools are already funded for summer school. Tafaya also said that specific commands, such as the 1st Armored Division in Europe or U.S. Army Europe, could pay for their own local summer schooling. For example, last



Joseph Tafaya

year USAREUR paid for the 1st AD schools to stay open.

"The biggest thing was the fact that we cared, we scrambled and we made it happen," said Diana Ohman, director of DODDS-Europe. "And they thought, 'Man, they did this for us, and thank you.'"

"Academically, any kind of summer months' injection of information and continued knowledge is a good thing for any child."

Tafaya said he would prefer to hold summer school at all DODDS schools so each student has equal access. Ohman said that the Jan. 31 target date is fair.

"It takes that long to do the right thing by teachers and not press them and ask them if it fits into their summer plans," she said. "There's a lot of stuff you have to work through."

— Charlie Coon

Witness: Another man dropped knife during fight

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — In a certain but shaky voice, an Army spouse testified Thursday she saw a man drop a knife during a fight between a soldier and a woman. The man, Pvt. Nestor K. Velazquez, dropped a knife that is at the center of his murder trial.

The morning testimony by defense witness Yassin Bowlin came shortly after Army prosecutors rested their case against Velazquez, 19, who is charged with unpremeditated murder in the April 18 stabbing death of Scott Scardino.

"Is there any doubt in your mind that this is the man that you saw drop the knife?" defense attorney Capt. Jon Stanfield asked Bowlin, referring to a Moroccan man whose photo he had just given Bowlin. The man was detained a couple of hours after the fatal fight but later released.

"No sir, there is no doubt," Bowlin said. Bowlin, the wife of a soldier based in the United States, was in Germany last April visiting friends. She was a designated driver on the night of the incident, transporting friends to the Euro Palace, a nightclub where the death occurred.

The fight unfolded close to where Bowlin was seated. Bowlin said she saw a man dressed in white scurry down a nearby flight of stairs being chased by an unidentified man wearing a dark sports jersey.

Asking Velazquez to stand, Stanfield turned back to Bowlin.

"Is this the individual you saw wearing the jersey?" Stanfield asked.

"No sir," Bowlin replied. While running down the flight of stairs, the man in white almost fell, momentarily losing his left shoe, Bowlin said.

"When he stumbled, he had a hard time catching himself," said Bowlin, "and that's when he dropped the knife."

Shown the presumed murder weapon, Bowlin said he was positive that the person he saw was the knife I saw on the stairs that night."

Bowlin testified that she alerted a bar employee of the knife several minutes later, and a bouncer retrieved the weapon for police.

It was during the brief foot chase, which ended when the bouncer reluctantly took the knife from Scardino bleeding near the bottom of the stairs.

Bowlin later identified for German police the man in white as he exited the bar. She testified that she told German authorities the man had changed out of his white shoes. The shoes the man was wearing, as well as his clothes at the

time of his arrest, were tested but no blood stains were found.

Velazquez's attorneys were rather disinterested with numerous breaks that sent the six-member panel back and forth between the court and the deliberation room.

After the prosecution rested, Velazquez's attorneys began their defense. But they grew increasingly frustrated because of the government's failure to produce witnesses who had been approved. The onus is on the prosecution to produce all witnesses, including those of the defense.

That led to several "stipulations," or agreements between the prosecution and defense of what a witness would say if able to testify.

The frequent breaks and stipulations were a point of contention. "The defense case 'looks like a shotgun blast ... and we are being hamstrung because of it,'" said Capt. Will Helikon.

Velazquez's attorneys acknowledged that it was his knife found at the bottom of the stairs and that he sneaked it into the club. However, they portrayed him as a peaceful young man who was only carried the knife for protection.

Velazquez's attorneys said he was trying to break up a fight involving another soldier, and that the fight became a brawl in which the man was injured.

Kevin Dougherty can be reached at kdougherty@mil.europe.sbs.com.



Michael Abrams/Stars and Stripes

Pvt. Nestor K. Velazquez is accused of killing an Italian man during a fight at the Euro Palace night club in Mainz-Kastel, Germany.



Velazquez

There are ways to help 'Any Servicemember'

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

'Tis the season to be cautious.

The Department of Defense has sent out a message reminding well-wishers that holiday gifts mailed to "Any Servicemember" will not be delivered to troops this holiday season, citing transportation constraints.

"During this time of year, the number of donation programs increase and causes mail from families and friends to be mixed with mail from unknown sources resulting in delivery delays," according to a DOD news release.

Although packages must be sent to troops by specific name to be delivered,

For more information, go to stripes.com/support.html

there still are ways for "Secret Santas" to spread some holiday cheer. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is sponsoring two programs — Gifts From the Homefront and Help Our Troops Call Home — to boost troop morale without compromising security or straining military postal workers.

Gifts From the Homefront works like gift certificates, which deployed troops can use to buy merchandise at any AAFES ex-

change, including the 29 in Iraq, 10 in Kuwait and five in Afghanistan.

For more information on the program, go to www.aafes.com or call 1-877-770-4438 (there is a charge if calling from outside the United States) to purchase the gift certificate. The certificates are then donated to "Any Servicemember" through the United Services Organization, American Red Cross, or other military specific organization.

The Help Our Troops Call Home program gives deployed troops phone cards to call loved ones over the holiday season. These cards can be used at any of the 60 AAFES call centers in Iraq and Afghanistan. They also can be purchased at

www.aafes.com or by calling 1-800-527-2345, and when prompted by the recorded message pressing 1.

In addition to the AAFES programs, there are many Web-based programs available.

Some gift-giving sites include: www.defendamerica.mil, to send a virtual card or holiday note; www.usocares.com, which makes authorized USO care packages for deployed troops; www.operationlink.org, which provides calling cards to troops through the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization; or visit the Support Our Troops section at www.military.com for ideas on how to donate holiday cheer.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigo@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Italian military police storm into a building during a raid in Secondigliano, a poor neighborhood on Naples' outskirts, on Tuesday. Hundreds of Italian police arrested 52 people around Naples in raids that started before dawn as part of a fight against a bloody mob turf war that has taken hold of the southern Italian city.



AP

Sailors not worried by Naples slayings

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — All the news that's fit to gossip about.

Some sailors and their families stationed at Naval Support Activity Naples are talking about the surge in the killings and arrests of the local "Mafia-like" gangs known as the Camorra.

"People are saying 'did you

hear about this, did you hear about that?' but it's not enough to make us afraid or change our routines," said Petty Officer 1st Class Tim Satern, stationed at Naval Support Activity, Naples.

His mother in Iowa, however, has been following the news of the rash of turf war killings that has made the news on cable and network stations such as CNN, and has cautioned her son to be-

ware.

"She's not too worried, but she's watching and keeping tabs," Satern said.

The family feuds, so to speak, claimed 23 lives in November, the most since the 1980s, according to several media reports.

The nearly daily reports of assassinations — some of which were committed in broad daylight, in crowded streets and in restaurants — prompted

Navy Support Activity Naples Command Officer Capt. Dave Frederick, to talk about it.

"We've seen plenty of alarming news stories lately about the violent shake-out going on in the organized crime arena," he writes in his weekly column, scheduled to appear Friday in the base newspaper.

"It's important for all of you to be alert to these stories and to keep your awareness high. So far, there is little reason for you to limit yourself when going out into the community, but keep your vig-

ilance up.

"If we have reason to place any area of town into an off-limits status, the word will be put out on AFN TV and radio, the NSA Naples Web home page, and via e-mail to all official accounts. I don't anticipate needing to do this, but please be ready to comply if necessary."

Frederick also receives regular briefings and situation updates from Naval Criminal Investigative Service

officials, spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Jacky Fisher said.

Keeping tabs on the news of the surrounding community just makes sense, even if sailors live on base, said Chief Petty Officer John Dillon, the assistant administration officer here.

"We're aware of the news and we follow it, but we're not concerned," Dillon said of his family.

"[The Camorra] don't tend to involve bystanders. They go after those who have a vested interest, those involved."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Top DOD health official outlines new programs

BY BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — The Department of Defense's top health official said Thursday that medical services for injured troops and health benefits for National Guardsmen and reservists will improve through new programs being implemented.

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said a new patient tracking program and extended eligibility for Guardsmen in the military's health-care system are two recent efforts to create better managed care for U.S. servicemembers.

Winkenwerder was referring to the recently adopted, Web-based Joint Patient Tracking Application and recent changes to Tricare, the military health-care infrastructure overseen by his office.

At Landstuhl, Winkenwerder greeted wounded troops arriving by plane at the hospital, and received briefings from local commanders and medical personnel.

Earlier stops on his Germany tour included a visit to U.S. European Command headquarters in Stuttgart to discuss AIDS prevention and education initiatives in northern Africa with commanders, and an appearance at the EU/COM Quality of Life Conference in Garmisch.

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Italian police arrest top mobster in portion of organized crime clan

The Associated Press

NAPLES, Italy — Italian police said Thursday they have arrested a suspected top mobster believed to be involved in a mob turf war that has terrorized Naples in recent weeks.

The arrest of Lucio De Lucia was part of a crackdown against the Naples-based Camorra organized crime syndicate. It came on the heels of a massive police operation in the area that brought 52 suspected mobsters behind bars.

De Lucia, 49, was arrested Wednesday night in a raid in a poor neighborhood in the northern outskirts of the city, police in Naples said. He was hiding in the home of a woman, who was also arrested.

An outbreak of violence in Naples has claimed 23 lives last month alone, with some of the killings in plain view. Investigators say the violence stems from a power struggle within the Di Lauro clan, a Camorra subgroup, over drug trafficking. De Lucia is believed to be a top member of the Di Lauro clan, police said.

Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu has vowed to end the recent mob turf war and to uproot the Camorra from Naples and surrounding cities.



Satern



Dillon

Hospital rules, housing clash in Sigonella

Doctor's family finds 45-minute drive from government housing to base hard to live with

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

The walls of the Navy Lodge might be closing in on Jen Temple and her family of four, but she'd rather pay her own hotel bill and live close to her husband's work, school and shopping than commute to a government housing area 45 minutes away.

Right now, that's the Temples' only option. The base policy at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, requires families to live in government housing if any is available. But the government housing area that's closer to the base is full.

"It's one thing to place families in government housing, but it's another thing when one of the housing complexes is only eight minutes drive versus 45 minutes drive," Temple said.

Some other families are in the same situation, but Temple said her husband has a particularly valid reason for wanting to live closer to work. As a family practice and obstetrics physician, Lt. Rick Temple is required to live within 30 minutes of the hospital on NAS Sigonella in case he must perform an emergency birth.

Hospital commander Capt. John D'Allesandro submitted a blanket waiver request in hopes



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy

The Mino housing units for Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, are about a 45-minute drive from the base and hospital — outside the maximum distance for family practice and obstetrics physicians, who are required to live within 30 minutes of the hospital in case they must perform an emergency birth.

of preventing such lodging issues with key personnel, but base commander Capt. Joe Stuyvesant denied the request, base spokesman Lt. Steve Curry said.

Instead, Stuyvesant decided such waiver requests would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

As of Thursday, no individual waivers had been submitted to the base CO, Curry said.

The Temples are in the process of filing an individual waiver request to live on the economy, Jen Temple said.

That leaves the family at the Navy Lodge until the case is resolved. The only government housing complex with open units is at the Mino complex, 27 miles from the main base, where the hospital and her children's elementary school are located. The other government housing complex, Maranai, is about six minutes from NAS Sigonella. But it is full.

An expected 40 units are slated to open at Maranai in the spring, Curry said.

NAS Sigonella policy states if government housing is available for occupancy, families must live on base, be it at Maranai or Mino. Single officers and enlisted sailors E-4 and above can choose to live in available base housing or on the economy, Curry said.

Mino's 404 housing units off highway SS-417, a main road between Catania and the southern Sicilian coast, were built through a public-private venture. The Navy leases the units, which opened in 1999, from an Italian contractor.

"[The leasing project] costs the Navy a lot of money, and it behooves us to put people in housing if it's available, instead of us paying for them to live on the economy," Curry said.

At the time of the lease purchase several years ago, the land that is now Mino Housing was the closest available, Curry said. "Once the Italians saw it was a pretty good deal with the Navy,

other housing offers became available," such as land for Maranai.

Lt. Cmdr. Marcia Ripley, an obstetrics nurse at the base hospital, had the choice of living on base housing or the economy and picked to live in Mino, in spite of the longer commute. She is exempt from the hospital's 30-minute commute rule because she does not perform emergency births.

"I came from California where I was used to driving two hours to work," she said. "But at least in my [California] community, I could go shopping, or to the movies and do all the usual stuff. Being out in Mino, you're isolated."

Curry said, however, that Mino Housing has everything families need.

Mino Housing is "one of our garden communities ... It is a lease-to-build facility which offers a community building, commissary, gym, video store, Bee Bar [coffee bar], chapel services, fire/emergency services, security, ATM machine, self-help store, playgrounds, recreational facilities and more," he said.

"All of the units are either three or four bedroom town houses," Curry said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.strips.com

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Rumsfeld: Army addressing armor problems

BY ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — A day after being challenged by a soldier on the Army's failure to provide adequate armor for vehicles used in Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday he expects the Army to do its best to resolve the problem.

Thousands of miles away, President Bush echoed Rumsfeld's sentiments. "The concerns expressed are being addressed and that is — we expect our troops to have the best possible equipment," Bush said at the White House. "If I were a soldier overseas wanting to defend my country I'd want to ask the secretary of defense the same question. And that is, 'Are we getting the best we can get?' And they deserve the best."

"And I have told many families I've met with, we're doing everything we possibly can to protect your loved ones in a mission which is vital and important. And that mission is to spread freedom and peace," Bush said.

On Thursday, several Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday repeated calls for new hearings on whether troops in Iraq are getting the protective equipment they need.

"This was, once again, a miscalculation by the Pentagon of exactly what kind of environment we would have after the fall of Saddam," said Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif.

The administration's statements "sound like this is all a big surprise," Tauscher said. "What you want to say to them is, 'Hey, knock it off. It's a big surprise because you thought you'd be out of there right now.'"

Rumsfeld, on a visit to the Indian capital, said it was good that ordinary soldiers are given a chance to express their concerns to the secretary of defense and senior military commanders.

"It's essential for the Army to hear that, do something about it and see that every one is treated properly," Rumsfeld said, referring not only to the complaint about insufficient armor but also another soldier's statement about not getting reimbursed for certain expenses in a timely way.

Those complaints, and others, were aired on Wednesday when Rumsfeld held a "town hall" style meeting with about 2,300 soldiers at Camp Buehring in northern Kuwait.

Spc. Thomas Wilson had asked Rumsfeld, "Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to up-arm our vehicles?"

Shouts of approval and applause arose from other soldiers who had assembled in an aircraft hangar to see Rumsfeld.

Rumsfeld hesitated and asked Wilson to repeat his question.

"We not having proper armored vehicles to carry with us north," Wilson, 31, concluded after asking again.

"You go to war with the Army you have,"



Rusty Davis smooths out rough edges as he puts an armored door on a U.S. military Humvee in April at the O'Gara-Hess plant in Fairfield, Ohio.

Reporter's role in question

An American reporter has said he was involved in the soldier's questioning of Rumsfeld. Edward Lee Pitts, a reporter for the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Free Press, is embedded in the same unit as Spc. Thomas Wilson who asked Rumsfeld the question about armored vehicles. In a note to his fellow staffers in Chattanooga, which was reproduced on the Romanesco inside-the-media Web site, Pitts said he was told that only soldiers could ask Rumsfeld questions, "so I brought two of them along with me as escorts."

Pitts said, "Beforehand, we worked on questions to ask Rumsfeld about the appalling lack of armor their vehicles going into combat have." He said that while waiting for Rumsfeld, he found the person in charge of the microphone to be used in the question-and-answer session "and made sure he knew to get my guys out of the crowd."

From staff reports

Rumsfeld replied, "not the Army you might want or wish to have."

Asked on Thursday about that exchange, the defense secretary said he believed the session in general was "very fine, warm [and] enjoyable." As for Wilson's statement, Rumsfeld said it could be constructive.

Wilson's ex-wife, Regina, said she was not surprised he challenged Rumsfeld. "It wouldn't matter if it was Bush himself standing there," she said. "He would have done him the same."

Wilson joined the National Guard in June 2003; previously, he had served about four years in the Air Force, beginning in 1994.

Rumsfeld said people should understand that the military has done all that can reasonably be expected to adjust to changing circumstances in Iraq as the insurgents have refined their tactics.

"That is the way war and insurgencies and combat operate," he said. "You go in, you have an enemy with a brain that does things, and then you make adjustments." He added, "Does everything happen instantaneously as the brain in the enemy sees things and makes changes? No, it doesn't happen instantaneously." But, he said, the Army has adjusted "pretty rapidly" to the evolving tactics of the insurgents, including the need to have more armor on vehicles like the Humvee.

Rumsfeld spoke after meeting Thursday with Indian Defense Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee. At the Ministry of Defense, Rumsfeld read a brief statement to reporters on U.S.-Indian military cooperation.

"The defense relationship is a strong one and something we intend to see is further knitted together as we go forward in the months and years ahead," he said. Later he was meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh when flying back to Washington.

Safer Humvees en route to Iraq

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — As of Wednesday, 282 up-armored Humvees are on ships en route to the Mideast, adding to the nearly 6,000 in place, Army spokesmen said Thursday.

The U.S. military has 19,389 Humvees in Iraq and Kuwait, and 5,910 of the trucks "up-armored," or built with a chassis that accommodates special armor.

Another 9,134 Humvees that do not have the heavy armor chassis have been equipped with add-on armor kits to protect doors, floors and other vulnerable elements, according to statistics provided to Stars and Stripes on Thursday by the Army.

Another 252 armor kits are in Iraq or Kuwait awaiting installation.

But that leaves 4,345 Humvees in the Iraq theater with no armor at all, a situation that Army leaders have pledged to remedy by April 2005.

Military leaders responsible for the Iraq theater, who are at the U.S. Central Command in Florida, have decided that they need no fewer than 8,105 up-armored Humvees in the Iraq theater, as well as an additional 13,872 add-on armor kits, Army spokeswoman Nancy Ray said.

That is enough armor to provide for all of the 18,389 Humvees now operating in the Iraq theater, as well as additional armor kits for different types of vehicles. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker told members of the House Armed Services Committee during a Nov. 17 hearing.

Until August 2003, the Army had only 235 up-armored Humvees in Iraq.

But last September, as improvised explosive devices began to take more and more of a toll on U.S. forces in Iraq, alarmed Army leaders decided to accelerate the purchase and fielding of so-called "up-armored" Humvees.

The Army has been working on getting armored Humvees in Iraq ever since, Schoomaker said Nov. 17.

"We had 235 up-armored Humvees in theater last year, and then we got a requirement for 1,407, so we started charging that requirement," Schoomaker told members of Congress. "A month later, we got a requirement for 3,000, and then it went to 4,150, and then it went to 6,223, and now it's gone to 8,105."

In fact, the requirement continued to climb. "What we now have figured out is, look, what the heck, we better up-armored everything we've got over there," Schoomaker told lawmakers. "And that's what we're doing."

Schoomaker told lawmakers that the entire requirement of 8,105 up-armored Humvees would be in the Iraq theater by April 2005.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.com

Marines in Fallujah get by with available armor

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. Marines patrolling the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah — some in open Humvees — say they've had some close calls "get by with" with the vehicle and body armor they have.

"I think the armor we have for the vehicles is getting better and our body armor is OK, I have nothing against it," Sgt. Aaron

D'Amico said Wednesday.

Told about complaints from disgruntled soldiers who told Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld earlier Wednesday they lacked armored vehicles and other equipment, D'Amico said, "I'd definitely opt for higher production of armor but the Marines get by well with what we have."

D'Amico said his unit, the 1st Battalion of the 8th Marine Regiment, received new, upgraded vehicle armor a year ago, with

Kevlar-protected seats. D'Amico's only complaint is that the open-roof Humvee provides no protection at the back.

The armor the Marines receive is "usually leftovers from the Army, the Army usually gets the better stuff," he added.

In November, U.S. deaths in Iraq reached 135, equaling the all-time high previously reached in April. Hundreds more were wounded. At least 54 deaths occurred during the Marine-led assault on Fallujah.

D'Amico said his closest call occurred four months ago in the town of Haditha in central Iraq, where a roadside bomb blew up by the side of his vehicle.

The blast and flying shrapnel nicked the side armor of the Humvee door but injured no one inside.

D'Amico said it was not just the vehicle armor that saved them, but also the bomb-makers' lack of skill in planting the device too deep to cause serious damage.

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U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,281 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,001 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,143 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 892 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- No deaths reported.
- The latest identifications reported by the military:
 - Marine Cpl. In C. Kim, 23, Warren, Mich., died Tuesday from a non-hostile vehicle incident in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 9th Communications Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.
 - Army Pfc. Andrew M. Ward, 25, Kirkland, Wash.; died Sunday in Ramadi, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire, assigned to the 4th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, Korea.

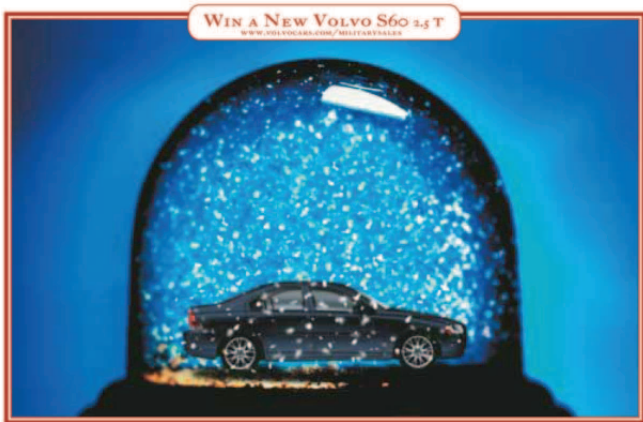
Celebs to visit troops

Singer/actor Henry Rollins and actor Patrick Kilpatrick will be visiting troops deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom during the holidays, according to a United Service Organizations news release.

Rollins, best known as the lead singer of the bands Black Flag and the Rollins Band, will be making his fourth USO tour. Kilpatrick, best known for his role in the movie "Minority Report," is making his first visit to the troops.

For more information on its celebrity tours, visit the USO Web site at www.uso.org.

From staff reports



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- 16 Dec • NAS Keflavik, Iceland





IN THE STATES

Bush taps new VA chief

Housing, Interior, Labor and Transportation secretaries to stay

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush announced on Thursday that Jim Nicholson, former chairman of the Republican National Committee and current U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, is his choice as the next secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department.

Veterans Secretary Anthony Principi on Wednesday became the ninth member of Bush's 15-person Cabinet to leave. Nicholson, chosen to replace him, is a decorated Vietnam veteran.

Bush has also asked the secretaries of the Transportation, Labor, Interior and Housing departments to remain. They have all agreed, completing decisions about which Cabinet members will stay for his second term.

Bush spoke with the four Cabinet secretaries — Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Interior Secretary Gale Norton, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao — to secure their decisions to remain in the Cabinet, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

"Jim Nicholson is a patriot, a man of great conviction who can answer his country's call many times," Bush said in the brief Roosevelt Room announcement ceremony.

Nicholson stood at his side, with his wife and two of their children looking on.

"When I met of growing up dirt poor in a tenant house with-



President Bush introduces Jim Nicholson, his choice to replace Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi. The announcement took place Thursday in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Nicholson had been ambassador to the Vatican.

out plumbing and sometimes without food, I marvel at America, that the boy from Struble, Iowa, may serve in the president's Cabinet. How could this be?" Nicholson said.

"For me, it is because of the opportunities my country gave me as a cadet at West Point and as a soldier. These experiences have defined my life."

The White House had announced Wednesday that Treasury Secretary John Snow would remain in his post.

Bush still must fill the top jobs at the Energy and Health and Human Services departments. McClellan said Thursday he would not speculate on who would take those jobs.

Energy chief Spencer Abra-

ham announced his resignation on Nov. 15, which suggests the White House has had difficulty finding a replacement.

Medicare chief Mark McClellan, who also has served as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and is the brother of White House press secretary McClellan — is considered to be Bush's top choice to replace Secretary Tommy Thompson at Health and Human Services.

The amount of changeover in Bush's Cabinet is on the high side for a second-term president. Presidents Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan saw seven Cabinet seats change hands after they won new terms. President Richard Nixon nine and Presidents Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson four each.



Jeff Logan of Columbus, Ohio, leans down to place plastic flowers and a bottle of "Dead Guy Ale" on a rock outside the Alrosa Villa in Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday. A gunman charged onstage there and opened fire on the band Damageplan, killing guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and three others before he was shot and killed by police.

4 fatally shot at Ohio concert

Guitarist "Dimebag" Abbott among those killed at club

BY JAY COHEN

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A gunman charged onstage at a nightclub and opened fire on the band and crowd, killing top heavy metal guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and three other people before a police officer shot him to death, authorities said.

The gunman had a hostage in a headlock and appeared to be preparing to kill him when the officer fired, police spokesman Sgt. Brent Mull said. The hostage escaped uninjured, Mull said.

Two other people were hospitalized. Police said one was in intensive care and the other stable.

Police identified the gunman as Nathan Gale, 25, of Marysville, 25 miles northwest of Columbus. Police said they had no information on a motive or any connection to Abbott or his band, the Texas-based group Damageplan.

Damageplan had just begun its first song at Alrosa Villa club Wednesday night when the gunman climbed onstage, started yelling and shot Abbott five or six times at point-blank range, witness Chris Couch said.

Mull said the gunman's exact statement was unclear because of the loud music. He said some witnesses reported hearing an accusation about Abbott breaking up his former band, thrash-rock pioneer Pantera, but it could not be confirmed whether the speaker was the gunman or a fan.

Couch, 22, said the man was

wearing a hooded sweat shirt and was followed by a bouncer and another club employee.

Couch said that after firing on the guitarist, the gunman shot a bouncer who had pulled him off the musician, while fans surged toward the exit. The gunman then fired into the crowd of more than 250 people, Mull said.

Mull said Officer James D. Niggemeyer, patrolling nearby, arrived within two minutes of hearing the call. Niggemeyer, 31, saw one person lying dead and the suspect holding onto another "pretty much in a headlock," Mull said.

He said the hostage, "probably a fan, maybe someone who worked with the band," was able to maneuver out of the way before the officer fired.

Besides Abbott and Gale, police said the dead included Nathan Bray, 23, and Erin Halk, 29. Police said the name of the fifth person killed was being withheld pending notification of family.

Couch said he believed the shooter had a plan. "It was definitely a grudge. It was against something," he said.

Mull said he believed there was amateur video that officers could use for clues but that police had no answers yet. "We may never know a motive for this, unless he left a note," Mull said.

Gale has a minor police record in Marysville, said Police Chief Floyd Golden. He was pulled over for driving with a suspended license last month.

Coast Guard copter crashes

Helicopter went down during rescue mission off Alaska's coast

BY MATT VOLZ

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A Coast Guard rescue helicopter ferrying crew members from a stranded freighter crashed in the Bering Sea, leaving six people missing in the rough and frigid waters. The ship they left behind ran aground and split apart.

The other four on the helicopter — three Coast Guard personnel and one crewmember — were picked up by another helicopter participating in the rescue, the Coast Guard said. They were taken to Dutch Harbor on nearby Unalaska Island for medical treatment.

There was no immediate word of their condition.

The freighter is owned by Singapore-based IMC Group and is registered under a Malaysian flag. Its crew was Filipino and Indian, the Coast Guard said.

Two other people who had stayed behind on the ship were rescued separately,

as were 18 other crewmembers taken off the ship earlier.

The Coast Guard had been struggling to help the 738-foot freighter, the Selendang Ayu, since Tuesday when it began drifting after its main engine broke down. But 25-foot swells and 30-knot winds hampered efforts.

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Roger Wetherell said the search was continuing early Thursday for the six missing. The water temperature was about 43 degrees Fahrenheit and the waves were as high as 20 feet. After daybreak a plane and two helicopters will be dispatched to join the search, Wetherell said.

"The survival time is right through three hours in those conditions," Rear Adm. James Olson, commander of the Coast Guard in Alaska, said earlier. "We'll search as long as we can be effective throughout the night."

Olson said he did not know whether the crewmembers were wearing survival gear.

The cause of the crash was not known.

Copter crashes in Bering Sea

A Coast Guard helicopter with 10 people aboard crashed into the Bering Sea while airlifting crew from a freighter grounded on Unalaska Island. Six people were unaccounted for.



SOURCE: ESRI

Spy program draws fire from Democrats

Legislation is separate from intelligence overhaul bill

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The latest mystery in Washington espionage circles came to light in an unlikely venue: the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Tucked inside Congress' new blueprint for U.S. intelligence spending is a highly classified and expensive spy program that drew exceptional criticism from leading Democrats.

In an unusually public rebuke of a secret government project, Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, the senior Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, complained Wednesday that the program was "totally unjustified and very, very wasteful and dangerous to the national security."

He called the program "stunningly expensive."

Rockefeller and three other Democratic senators — Richard Durbin of Illinois, Carl Levin of Michigan and Ron Wyden of Oregon — refused to sign the congressional compromise negotiated by others in the House and Senate that provides for future U.S. intelligence activities.

The compromise noted that the four senators believed the program was unnecessary and its cost unjustified and that "they believe that the funds for this item should be expended on other intelligence programs that will make a surer and greater contribution to national security."

Each senator — and more than two dozen current and former U.S. officials contacted by The Associated Press — declined to further describe or identify the disputed program, citing its classified nature.

Thirteen other senators on the Intelligence Committee and all their counterparts in the House approved the compromise.

Despite objections from some in the Senate, Congress has approved the program for the past two years, Rockefeller said.

The Senate voted to send the legislation to President Bush on Wednesday night. The bill is separate from the intelligence overhaul legislation that also won final congressional approval Wednesday.

Bush rules out tax increase for Social Security

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Thursday flatly ruled out raising payroll taxes to ensure the solvency of Social Security as he began a push for historic changes in the retirement program.

Bush renewed his call for legislation that would let workers create private retirement accounts within the government-run program.

"We will not raise payroll taxes to solve this problem," Bush said as he met in the Oval Office with a panel of advisers on the Social Security issue.

Bush sidestepped questions about whether the nation can afford to borrow in order to confront a shortfall in the trillions of dollars.

"I will not prejudice any solution," Bush said.

At a time of record deficits, estimates of the money needed range from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion or more over a decade. Bush said the total unfunded liability is \$11 trillion.

"Does this country have the will to address this problem? I think it

must," Bush said, sitting next to Treasury Secretary John Snow and the members of his panel.

"There is a recognition among the experts that we have a problem, and the problem is America is getting older and that there are fewer to pay into the system to support a baby boomer generation which is about to retire," Bush said. "We have a responsibility to solve problems before they become acute."

The call for private accounts is the most controversial element of

Bush's vision for a remodeled Social Security. Administration officials had signaled previously that they were leaning toward borrowing to finance the changes, rather than raising taxes.

A presidential commission in 2001 proposed allowing individuals to place up to 2 percent of their payroll into a private account to be invested for retirement. Any such plan depends on a large infusion of cash to replace the tax money that would otherwise fund the government benefits.

Clark counts on being better for New Year's Eve

By DEREK ROSE

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Dick Clark was in the hospital recovering from a mild stroke Wednesday, still hopeful he would make it to Times Square for his New Year's Eve special.

The 75-year-old entertainment legend suffered the stroke Monday and was recuperating at an undisclosed Los Angeles-area hospital, his spokesman said.

"The doctors tell me I should be back in the swing of things before too long, so I'm hopeful to be able to make it to Times Square to help lead the country in bringing in the new year once again," Clark said in a statement.

The "American Bandstand" pioneer is scheduled to host "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve 2005" on ABC for what would be the 33rd consecutive year.

Clark's spokesman, Paul Shefrin, called the stroke mild but declined to say whether his speech had been affected.

"The question in my mind is, does he have any speech deficits?" said Dr. Albert Favate, a neurologist at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City.

If so — or if Clark has suffered facial disfigurement or has trouble

standing — the three weeks until New Year's Eve might not be sufficient time to recover, Favate said.

Clark's Dec. 31 special airs on ABC but is independently produced by his production company, which also makes the NBC

drama "American Dreams."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Dick," said Jeff Zucker, president of NBC Universal Television Group.

Clark made his name after "Bandstand" went national in the late 1950s, and he began hosting

the New Year's Eve special in 1972.

"I had no idea I'd be standing out there 30 years," Clark told the New York Daily News in 2001. "I always look forward to it. It's an occasion... and for New Yorkers it's part of everyone's life."



Clark

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No lighters on planes

WASHINGTON — Passengers already are barred from smoking on commercial airline flights in the United States. Now they won't be allowed to bring their butane lighters on board, either.

As part of the intelligence reform bill passed Wednesday, Congress added the lighters to the long list of items, including scissors, pen knives and box cutters, that passengers are barred from carrying on to planes. The ban does not apply to checked luggage.

Parents win lawsuit

CHICAGO — The parents of an American teenager killed by gunmen in the West Bank won \$156 million from three Islamic groups and an alleged Hamas fund-raiser, one of the first jury awards against U.S.-based institutions accused of supporting terrorism.

A federal court jury set \$52 million in damages Wednesday in the suit brought by Joyce and Stanley Boim, the parents of 17-year-old David Boim, who was shot near the Israeli settlement of Beit El.

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IN THE WORLD

Canada's Supreme Court says gay marriage legal

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN
The Associated Press

TORONTO — In a landmark opinion, Canada's Supreme Court said Thursday that proposed legislation allowing gay marriage is constitutional, but the government cannot force religious officials to perform unions against their beliefs.

The Liberal government had sought the court's opinion, which is strictly advisory, as the House of Commons determines whether to legalize gay marriage at a federal level. Judges in six provinces and one territory have already allowed same-sex marriage.

Canada would join Belgium and the Netherlands in allowing gay marriage if the law is passed.

"Several centuries ago, it would have been understood that mar-

riage be available only to opposite-sex couples," the court said in its opinion. "The recognition of same-sex marriage in several Canadian jurisdictions as well as two European countries belies the assertion that the same is true today."

The legislation is expected to be introduced early next year.

The federal Conservatives and even some Liberal lawmakers were expected to wage a battle to limit marriage to heterosexuals.

The gay marriage law needs the backing of at least 155 legislators in the 308-seat House of Commons to pass. It has the backing of the 38 Liberal Cabinet members and is believed supported by nearly all legislators in the Bloc Quebecois and New Democrat parties, which have 54 and 19 seats.

Supporters now need support from about half the 95 Liberal

backbenchers. However, there is some dissent in the ranks.

"I do personally have a problem with redefining marriage and I'm sure some of my colleagues do as well," said Liberal lawmaker Roy Cullen.

Public opinion in Canada is evenly divided on the matter, and both sides are preparing for the next phase of the battle.

"This is a victory for Canadian values," said Alexander Munster of Canadians for Equal Marriage.

Gordon Young, pastor of the First Assembly of God Church in St. John's, Newfoundland, was highly disappointed.

"It's a sad day for our country,"

Young told CBC television news.

"God is in the DNA of this nation. We believe that changing the definition of marriage is changing the divine institution that God put in place for the order of our society."

Surviving the typhoons



AP

A typhoon victim is helped off a rescue helicopter by Red Cross personnel at the Villamor Air Base in Manila, Philippines, on Thursday. The typhoons last week killed at least 842 people, and more than 750 are still missing. On Thursday, rescuers pulled four survivors from a building that collapsed in mudslides 10 days ago.

IRA agrees to disarm but won't allow photos

The Associated Press

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — The Irish Republican Army declared for the first time Thursday that it's willing to get rid of its entire weapons stockpile within weeks — but it won't allow anybody to photograph the disarmament.

The outlawed IRA made its new offer of speedy disarmament a day after the British and Irish governments published a detailed plan designed to revive a Catholic-Protestant administration, the intended cornerstone of the province's Good Friday peace accord of 1998.

The two diametrically opposed forces that would have to share power — the British Protestants of the Democratic Unionist Party and the Irish Catholics of Sinn Féin, the IRA-linked party — agree they are close to a historic pact.

But just as the IRA's longtime refusal to disarm has wrecked previous power-sharing pacts, its

refusal to permit photos of its disarmament has become the deal-breaker this time.

The IRA said Democratic Unionist leader Ian Paisley "demanded that our contribution be photographed, and reduced to an act of humiliation. This was never possible." But the Democratic Unionists declared its readiness for a protracted standoff if the IRA doesn't budge on permitting photos.

All sides agreed Thursday that the IRA's latest commitments represent a stunning advance from 1997, when the underground organization halted its 27-year campaign against British rule.

The IRA will allow two clergymen — one a Catholic priest approved by Sinn Féin, the other a Protestant nominated by the Democratic Unionists — to act as independent observers, another new commitment.

The IRA also moved closer to demands for the group to fade away in a power-sharing deal.

Marines arrive at U.S. Consulate in Saudi Arabia

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia — A team of U.S. Marines has arrived in this Red Sea port to assist in security at a U.S. Consulate that came under attack this week by Islamic militants, an American Embassy official said Thursday.

Such teams typically include 50 Marines and are expert in providing security and conducting raids in urban areas, Marine officials in the United States have said. The teams often are deployed in the aftermath of a terrorist attack.

From The Associated Press

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OPINION

A pat-down of TSA procedures is in order

BY RON MOORE

Recent news coverage regarding the new pat-down procedure used by passenger screeners of the Transportation Security Administration focuses on two primary issues: the embarrassment of passengers who feel uncomfortable going through the procedure in public and reports of screeners performing the procedure inconsistently. I am a federal security screener at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, and I face the frustrations experienced by the traveling public daily.

But the media reports leave out one important element: training.

It's not surprising that travelers face apparently inconsistent searches by passenger screeners when you consider the TSA's negligence in complying with the congressional mandate that screeners receive three hours of training each week.

We are subjected to recertification testing and screeners are dismissed if they fail a computer test on TSA policies. We also are subjected to testing on pat-downs by Lockheed Martin Corp. workers as a condition of keeping our jobs. But it seems that the only time training is taken seriously is before this testing.

Before each shift, screeners attend a briefing, which goes down in the books as training time. In my case, on C Pier at BWI, 25 to 30 screeners attend a briefing in a room that measures 12 by 14 feet, most are standing and at least 10 of us have to listen from outside the door. Many trainers seem unprepared for questions and appear to have no training experience. Some are downright belligerent. Recently, when a screener complained that a new procedure for detecting

trace amounts of explosives put him at risk, he was told that he took the job knowing it involved risks and that if we didn't follow each procedure, we could be terminated without notice. Eventually, the trainer burst into tears as screeners continued questioning.

That is an extreme case, though. Typically, we are told that trainers are simply reading the briefing materials when they answer our questions, indicating to me they don't understand the information themselves.

The TSA will not allow screeners time off from their checkpoints for training because many airports are severely understaffed. The agency did not plan properly for the loss, a little over a year ago, of nearly half its screening work force to the task of inspecting checked baggage. Moreover, although our federal security director recently was awarded a \$20,000 bonus, the TSA apparently lost its training rooms at BWI because it was unable to pay rent on them.

The new personnel system has caused an attrition rate of more than 20 percent this year, according to sources inside the agency. Who would want a job in which you are told you have to be perfect every time or people may die? Who would want a job in which passengers can be belligerent and, at times, may physically assault screeners, while management appears to be primarily concerned with passengers' customer service experience? We are not covered by most laws that protect the federal work force.

We are not permitted collective bargaining rights, although the Transportation Security Administration is officially neutral on private screeners having such rights. This leaves screeners vulnerable to cronyism, favoritism and arbitrary disciplinary actions — just the sort of abuses a civil service system was created to prevent. Incredibly, the



TSA's parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security, is considering a similar personnel system.

The problem is not a lack of technology.... The problem is not a federalized work force. The problem is the personnel system. President Bush opposed the creation of the TSA until a provision was written into the law creating an experimental "merit"-based performance system. I am not aware of any screener who has received a merit raise in the agency's brief history.

It is time for Congress to step up and take its oversight role seriously. A full investigation

of the new personnel system should be conducted. Screeners should be permitted to provide testimony without fear of retribution. Are they receiving adequate training? Is the new personnel system meeting the expectations of Congress?

The next time you feel that a pat-down is intrusive or that a screener seems frustrated or even unprofessional, less the supervisor know. But also, let Congress know that it is time to provide real oversight.

Ron Moore is a federal security screener working at Baltimore-Washington International Airport in Linthicum, Md., and president of Local 1 of the American Federation of Government Employees. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Military service deserves a position of privilege

The Philadelphia-based Foreign Policy Research Institute held a conference Monday on the future of reserve military forces. The site was the Union League club.

Jack Kelly



"The classic French-Renaissance-style League House, which occupies an entire city block in the center of Philadelphia's commerce and cultural district, is listed in the National Historic Register," says the League's Web site. Being inside the club reminded me of how much America's elite has degenerated.

The Union League was founded in 1862 to support the policies of President Lincoln. On the walls are portraits of prominent Philadelphians who gave their lives fighting for the Union. There are also plaques of members who died fighting in World Wars I and II. You can find similar plaques at Ivy League colleges.

I saw no plaque honoring Union League members who died fighting in Vietnam and subsequent conflicts. Nor, I dare say, are there such monuments at Harvard or Yale.

For much of our history, those who have benefited most from living in America felt a special obligation to keep her safe and free. But the most privileged among us are now the Americans least likely to serve, and least likely to express gratitude to those who do.

This has long been a burr under the saddle of one of the presidents at the FPRI conference, Northwestern University professor Charles Moskowitz, America's most prominent military sociologist. Charlie was drafted into

the army in the late 1950s, benefited from the experience, and thinks others of America's "best and brightest" would as well.

Moskowitz would love to have the draft reinstated, but recognizes that this is not going to happen. So he's touting a 15-month enlistment option for the armed forces that would be appealing to college students. In exchange for their service, volunteers would receive generous education benefits or repayment of outstanding student loans.

I think he's on the right track. My draft number was 363. I'd have gone after women and children. But I dropped out of law school to join the Marines as a private. I had a bunch of reasons — good, bad and indifferent — for doing so. But I was doing something for my parents and my classmates regarded as insane.

What pushed me over the edge was the

two-year enlistment option ... and the GI Bill. I wouldn't have joined if I had to sign up for four years or more, or if I didn't have the rationalization that I could always finish law school on the GI Bill.

As it turned out, I loved the Corps. It was the best experience of my life. I spent 14 years in the Marine and Army reserves. We don't need to compel the service of the elite to have an outstanding military. But we ought to encourage it. Moskowitz' plan for a 15-month enlistment would work for military occupation specialties such as military police and infantry where extensive training is not required, if it were coupled with four years of obligated service in a drilling reserve unit. Reserve service is a wonderful part-time job for college students.

Moskowitz' plan could be advanced by terminating what he calls "the GI Bill without the

GI." The government currently gives low-interest loans and, sometimes, grants to college students in exchange for well, nothing. The government should provide benefits only in return for service.

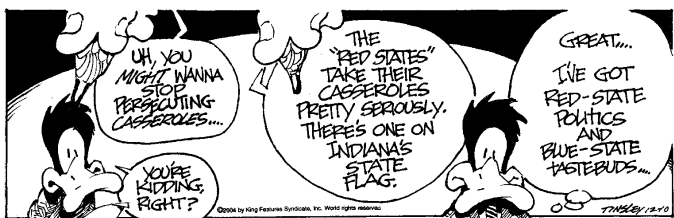
This is a sensible reform, but it wouldn't have much impact on the most privileged.

In Robert Heinlein's novel "Starship Troopers," only veterans could vote. That goes too far. But suppose we made it a requirement for holding federal elective office that candidates for the House and Senate must have an honorable discharge from the U.S. armed forces? Those who are unwilling to serve should not be permitted to lead.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he is a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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YOUR MONEY

Volvo is good gamble for power, performance

Dear Tom and Ray: I know you guys don't like big SUVs, so you'll be glad to hear that we are downsizing from an SUV to a wagon. We are having trouble finding a wagon we like. We want something sporty, with some power. Consumer Reports recommends the Volvo wagon only. It is neither sporty nor powerful, and it looks like a box on four wheels. We like the Audi wagon, with its 250 horsepower and twin turbos, but Consumer Reports won't recommend it due to its lack of reliability. We haven't driven the Mercedes wagon yet, but it is low on horsepower and high on price. What would you recommend?

Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

RAY: What's with the power obsession, Tom? You know, there are other ways to combat hair loss — minoxidil, for example.

TOM: If you don't like the looks of the Volvo, that's fine. But the V70 wagon has four optional engines, ranging from 168 to 300 horsepower. What's not powerful about that?

RAY: And actually, we find the 2.5-liter 5-cylinder turbo engine that makes 208 horsepower to be just right for that car.

TOM: Getting more power than you need usually just adds weight to the car, wastes your gas money and encourages you to drive like a knucklehead and wreck yourself around a tree. And I guess if you're going to drive like a knucklehead and wrap yourself around a tree, you might want to take an-

other look at something nice and safe — like that Volvo, Tom.

RAY: Fortunately, for recovering SUV drivers, there are lots of great wagons and sport wagons on the road now. But if the Volvo is too boring-looking for you and the Mercedes wagon is too expensive, you're a perfect candidate for a Dodge

Magnum —

If you can convince your wife to see in it.

TOM: Yeah. It does tend to drip testosterone, if you know what I mean. Especially the red ones. So show her a nice, subdued silver one.

RAY: But it's a pretty nice car. It's got a chassis based on the previous-generation Mercedes E-class (Mercedes and Chrysler are part of the same company now). It's a four-door, comfortable and available with all-wheel drive.

TOM: Reliability is unknown, so we can't give you any assurance there. But the price is right. With all-wheel drive and a 250-horsepower V-6 engine (like the one you wanted in the Audi), the Magnum starts at about \$28 grand. So try it with the 3.5-liter V-6 engine, Tom. I think you'll find it's everything you need. And then you can wrap the savings on a week at the Ship Boarding Club School and spend HIS cars around a tree next to the track, where aggressive driving belongs.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section on cars.com or on our World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

BY ALBERT B. CRENSHAW

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON With just four weeks left in 2004, now is the time for any last-minute tax planning you want to do.

Last calls of this sort have taken on a new dimension recently because a growing number of taxpayers, even fairly ordinary, middle-income ones, are being caught up in the maw of the alternative minimum tax. And, while it's difficult to escape the AMT, there may be a few things you can do.

By now, most people have at least heard of the AMT, but those who still think of it as what it was intended to be — a special tax to make sure rich people pay at least something to the government — are badly out of date.

Because of the AMT's structure, and Congress' unwillingness to change it, the tax's impact has been creeping steadily down the income scale. Lawmakers did extend a very modest relief provision this fall, but nonetheless millions of Americans will have to pay the tax this year, and many more will be forced to do calculations to see whether they have to pay it.

Upper-middle-income taxpayers and an increasing number of middle-income ones who live in high-tax jurisdictions and/or who have large families or certain kinds of deductions are likely to be caught up in it.

"The AMT has morphed into a stealth tax that traps taxpayers of the more modest means," says Laurie Asch, senior tax analyst with RIA, a firm that provides information and software to tax professionals.

Essentially the AMT works this way: First you do your taxes the regular way.

Then you do the AMT. That involves taking your regular taxable income, adding back in certain deductions that are not allowed under the AMT, and then applying a large "exemption amount" — really a sort of standard deduction — to

find your AMT taxable income. Then you apply special AMT tax rates —

— 26 percent on the first \$75,000 and 28 percent above that — and see what you owe. You then compare that to your regular tax and pay whichever is higher.

This means, as you can see, that the lower your regular tax, the more likely you are to be hit by the AMT.

Over the years, regular tax rates have been cut, and brackets and many other features have been indexed for inflation. But such adjustments have not been applied to the AMT. Thus, the AMT's definition of "taxable income" steadily encompasses more taxpayers.

Congress did pass a temporary boost in the exemption amount — it's now \$58,000 for married couples filing jointly, \$40,250 for singles and \$29,000 for married filing separately — and this fall lawmakers extended that through next year. But since the exemption phases out as income levels increase, it doesn't help higher-income families very much.

Because of differences between the regular tax and the AMT — such as deductions that are allowed in the former and not in the latter — strategies that lower regular tax can be counterproductive because they trigger AMT. That, of course, was the original point of the AMT, but it wasn't supposed to whack garden-variety taxpayers.

As a result, for taxpayers at or near the "year-end tax planning can be like playing two

games of chess simultaneously," Asch said.

It's difficult to know for sure whether you will have to pay the AMT without actually doing regular and AMT calculations. However, there are certain income and deduction items that many people have that can be triggers for the AMT.

Most people have at least heard of the alternative minimum tax, but those who still think of it as what it was intended to be — a special tax to make sure rich people pay at least something to the government — are badly out of date.

■ **Home mortgage interest.** Did you refinance this year? Under the regular tax, interest on up to \$100,000 of refinanced mortgage debt is deductible, even if you didn't put the money into the house. But it's not deductible for AMT unless it did go for home improvements.

■ **Standard deduction and personal exemptions.** These reduce regular taxable income, but they must be added back when you figure your AMT income. This feature is one that can

catch big families, since there's a personal exemption for each child, especially if they have other regular tax deductions that are not allowed for AMT.

■ **State and local taxes.** Under the regular tax, taxpayers have the option of deducting either state and local income taxes or state and local sales taxes, at least when figuring the regular federal income tax. This was meant mainly as a favor for residents of states with no income tax, but it raises the possibility that stock folks, after they happily claim their new deduction on their regular returns, will get a nasty AMT surprise.

■ **Incentive stock options.** Under regular rules, no tax is triggered by the exercise of these options. Regular tax is levied only when you sell the underlying shares. However, you are AMT-taxable on the difference between the price at which the option allows you to buy the stock and the current market value of the stock. So anyone who exercised such options this year needs to watch out for the AMT.

Savings and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

BY NANCY DUNNAN

The federal government has just published My Money Tool Kit. This free package of publications will help you organize your finances, plan for the future, protect your credit record, set up a budget, manage your spending and avoid ID theft.

It also has sound advice about saving, investing and Social Security.

Place your order at: www.my-money.gov.

Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Invest \$20 to \$5,000," she writes a weekly column for theinvestor.com.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES			
High	Low	Volume	Net Chg
10.23.13	1,708.40	40	+1.11
3,748.88	2,743.46	Dow Jones Industrial	+54.27
25.252	252.47	Dow Jones Tech	+1.19
7,108.83	6,087.23	NASDAQ Composite	+15.25
1,471.43	1,105.38	NYSE Composite	+1.86
1,250.82	1,250.82	Nasdaq Composite	+11.49
1,137.40	1,053.41	S&P 500	+1.82
546.29	546.29	S&P 500	+1.82
64.448	51.928	Russell 2000	+5.54
11,388.84	10,344.15	DJ Wilshire 5000	+54.75

NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Volume	Volume
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000

AMEX

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Volume	Volume
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000

NASDAQ

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Volume	Volume
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
British pound	\$1.3687
South Korean won (Dec. 10)	100.00
South Korean won (Dec. 9)	100.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (dinar)	0.37698
British pound	0.51934
Egypt (pound)	0.2708
Denmark (krone)	0.527
Swedish krona	0.6208
Euro (euro)	0.71336
Japanese yen	0.00746
Hong Kong (dollar)	0.78
Hong Kong (dollar)	0.78
Israeli sheqel	0.2721
Kuwait (dinar)	0.26496
Malaysian ringgit	0.54
Philippines (peso)	0.56
Singapore (dollar)	0.6454
South Korea (won)	100.00
Swedish krona	0.6208
Thailand (baht)	0.0034
U.S. dollar	1.00
(Military exchange rates are those available at the U.S. State Dept. facilities in the country of issuance and are for U.S. dollars only.)	
Netherlands and the United Kingdom	0.71336
For non-U.S. currency exchange rates, (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany) check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for U.S. dollars only. Buying currency. All figures are foreign market rates in U.S. dollars.	

Key Defense Stocks

Name	High	Low	Volume	Net Chg
Alliant Techsystems	55.00	54.00	100	+0.50
Boeing	100.00	99.00	100	+0.50
Boeing	100.00	99.00	100	+0.50
Boeing	100.00	99.00	100	+0.50
Boeing	100.00	99.00	100	+0.50
Boeing	100.00	99.00	100	+0.50
Boeing	100.00	99.00	100	+0.50
Boeing	100.00	99.00	100	+0.50
Boeing	100.00	99.00	100	+0.50
Boeing	100.00	99.00	100	+0.50

Key Mutual Funds

Name	High	Low	Volume	Net Chg
Fidelity Invest. Growth	34.00	33.00	100	+0.50
Fidelity Invest. Growth	34.00	33.00	100	+0.50
Fidelity Invest. Growth	34.00	33.00	100	+0.50
Fidelity Invest. Growth	34.00	33.00	100	+0.50
Fidelity Invest. Growth	34.00	33.00	100	+0.50
Fidelity Invest. Growth	34.00	33.00	100	+0.50
Fidelity Invest. Growth	34.00	33.00	100	+0.50
Fidelity Invest. Growth	34.00	33.00	100	+0.50
Fidelity Invest. Growth	34.00	33.00	100	+0.50
Fidelity Invest. Growth	34.00	33.00	100	+0.50

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$434.80
Silver	10.00
Palladium	1,000.00
Platinum	1,000.00
Rhodium	1,000.00
Ruthenium	1,000.00
Titanium	1,000.00
Vanadium	1,000.00
Zinc	1,000.00
Zirconium	1,000.00
Antimony	1,000.00
As	1,000.00
B	1,000.00
Bi	1,000.00
Br	1,000.00
Cd	1,000.00
Co	1,000.00
Cu	1,000.00
Fe	1,000.00
Ga	1,000.00
Ge	1,000.00
Hf	1,000.00
Hg	1,000.00
Ir	1,000.00
K	1,000.00
La	1,000.00
Li	1,000.00
Mg	1,000.00
Mn	1,000.00
Mo	1,000.00
Nb	1,000.00
Ni	1,000.00
P	1,000.00
Pb	1,000.00
Pr	1,000.00
Se	1,000.00
Si	1,000.00
Sn	1,000.00
Sr	1,000.00
Ta	1,000.00
Tb	1,000.00
Ti	1,000.00
Tl	1,000.00
U	1,000.00
V	1,000.00
W	1,000.00
Xe	1,000.00
Y	1,000.00
Zn	1,000.00
Zr	1,000.00

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.00
Discount rate	5.00
Federal funds market rate	1.00
3-month bill	2.24
30-year mortgage	5.50
Sources:	The Associated Press, Bank of America

Alamo letter auction

TX SAN ANTONIO — A copy of the letter written by the Texas commander at the battle of the Alamo pleading for backup and pledging "victory or death" was auctioned for \$29,200.

The letter from William Barret Travis, one of only four known copies, was sold along with another letter that later announced the defenders had lost the March 1836 battle, said Lauren Gioia, a spokeswoman for Sorbey's, the auctioneer.

Both letters were removed from a private collection being auctioned in June when a retired dealer of historic Texas items questioned whether they rightfully belonged to the Texas State Library.

Volunteer scam artist

PA PHILADELPHIA — A Red Cross employee and two other people were accused of stealing the identities of about 40 blood donors and using the information to obtain about \$268,000 in cash and merchandise.

In 2002 and 2003, Red Cross district clerk Diane Bales, 33, of Collingswood, N.J., fished names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, telephone numbers and places of employment from the computer records of people who had participated in corporate blood drives in Philadelphia, U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan said.

Harold J. McCoy III, 33, and Karynn R. Long, 36, of Dayton, Ohio, then used the information to obtain credit, cash counterfeit checks and get bank loans, Meehan said.

Justice — 20 years late

NC WINSTON-SALEM — A man will plead guilty to killing a woman in 1984, a crime that wrongly sent another man to prison for 18 years, his attorney said. Willard E. Brown, 44, will plead guilty to the murder, rape and kidnapping of Deborah Sykes in exchange for a one life sentence. The plea agreement, announced by public defender Pete Clay, allows Brown to avoid the possibility of a death sentence.

Brown will also plead guilty to a robbery charge and receive a sentence of 10 years, to be served in addition to the life sentence. A 10-year-old state law abolished parole in such murder cases.

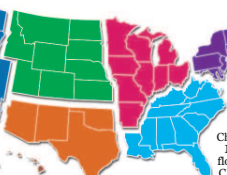
But Brown will be eligible for parole under sentencing laws in place at the time of Sykes' murder.

Elephant moving day

MI DETROIT — Winky and Wanda, two aging, arthritic elephants, will spend their retirement in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada mountains, away from the cramped, cold Detroit Zoo.

After months of wrangling, Detroit Zoo director Roy Kan reached an agreement with two other zoos and an accreditation group to send Winky and Wanda to California's Performing Animal Welfare Society sanctuary for a milder climate and more space.

Wanda, 46, has arthritis and 51-year-old Winky has foot problems. Both have surpassed the av-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

erage 45-year life expectancy for Asian elephants in captivity in North America.

Party-house lawsuit

CA BERKELEY — First they flung chunks of a cooked pig at passing cars. Then another resident of the student housing co-op beheaded a chicken with garden shears, said shocked neighbors.

And a few months back, a guy on the rooftop deck was heard yelling, "Where's the heroin?" Le Chateau is the University of California's own Animal House, its neighbors say, and they want a court to force the landlord to pay them damages for their years of suffering through raucous naked pool parties, nighttime bongo drumming and piles of rat-friendly garbage.

Twenty-one people are asking for a total of \$105,000 in small-claims court — \$5,000 each — arguing that the communal complex of three buildings has been a public nuisance since the University Students Cooperative Association bought it in 1977.

Religious float banned

CO DENVER — An attorney has offered to explore a lawsuit on behalf of a pastor whose church was barred from entering a

Christmas float in Denver's Parade of Lights.

"If he has an interest in carrying it to the next level, we're ready," said Mike Norton, lawyer for the Alliance Defense Fund, which takes on religious liberty cases primarily for Christian clients.

Morrison wanted to enter a float featuring multicultural Christian themes and a Merry Christmas message. Parade officials told a representative from Morrison's church, the 4,000-member Faith Bible Chapel, that religious messages aren't allowed because they might offend others.

Teens run over by SUV

FL ST. AUGUSTINE — A woman ran over two teenage brothers after they accidentally hit her sport utility vehicle with the golf ball they were bouncing in a parking lot, officials said, leaving one of the injuries life-threatening.

Isiah Grayer, 14, and his 16-year-old twin stepbrothers, Justin and Jamal Marshman, were bouncing the golf ball in a shopping center parking lot when it went astray and struck a sport utility vehicle driven by Kathy Feaganes Allen, 47, St. Johns County sheriff's Deputy Grech Suchy said.

Suchy said no damage was done, and the boys apologized and began to walk away. Allen started to drive away, but suddenly made a U-turn, ran over a median and struck Grayer and Justin Marshman before knocking over a light pole, Suchy said.

She then drove after Jamal Marshman, crossing two medians and striking a utility box before her SUV stopped in a ditch, Suchy said. The boy ran away and was not struck.

A judge ordered Allen held without bail on three counts of attempted murder.

Campus security review

IA Iowa City — The University of Iowa is reviewing campus security measures in light of recent vandalism at a campus laboratory. A new group has been formed to review how the university can better account for all keywords issued. The university temporarily closed Seshore Hall last month after vandals removed animals and spilled chemicals in a psychology lab.

The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the attack.

Brother gets his thanks

NM ALBUQUERQUE — When University of New Mexico Hospital workers didn't let 8-year-old Christina Martinez visit her wounded brother, she wouldn't allow it.

"I told them, 'He saved my life, and I want to see him,'" she said of her visit to the hospital — and finally to her brother's bedside Sunday.

"I just said to him, 'Thank you for saving me and I love you,'" Christina said.

Angel Martinez, 10, was mauled by a Rottweiler over the weekend at a park after he pushed the dog off Christina. He was in satisfactory condition at the hospital.



Trying to keep balance

Curtis Johnson, 13, of Cleveland, battles a strong gust of wind as he walks by the fallen Christmas tree on Public Square in Cleveland. The 40-foot tree snapped off about 5 feet up on the trunk because of winds up to 55 mph.



Can you fly?

Brianna Stockstill, 2, pets Star, a female reindeer, at the Deer Farm and Exotic Petting Zoo in Sevierville, Tenn.



Plunging for charity Former Miss Nebraska Krista Knicey-Anderson, left, Miss Douglas County Mary Boschart, center, and Miss Nebraska Brook Matthews sprint to get out of Lake Zorinsky after taking part in the Polar Bear Plunge. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Special Olympics.



Being cute is a rough job Mookie the Bassett hound, right, lets out a long yawn as he and his friends have their picture taken with Santa in El Paso, Texas.



Hang on cowboy! Cory Melton, of Keithville, La., rides Paleface in the first performance of bull riding at the National Finals Rodeo, at the Thomas & Mack arena in Las Vegas.



Graceful ballerinas Dancers perform "Waltz of the Snowflakes" from "The Nutcracker" at Breakfast with Santa, hosted by the Young People's Ballet Theatre at Paoz in School of Dance in Flint Twp., Mich.

Large settlement

CA SAN FRANCISCO — An anti-war protester who sued San Francisco after a police officer broke her arm with a baton strike during a demonstration would get one of the city's largest-ever payouts in a police case, under an \$835,000 deal that the Police Commission has approved.

The settlement was reached in a federal lawsuit filed by Linda Vaccarezza, 39, who claimed her civil rights were violated when Police Officer Anthony Nelson clubbed her during the street protests that swept through downtown March 20, 2002, the day after U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq.

Vaccarezza suffered a broken forearm during the incident, which another protester recorded on videotape.

Man gets life in prison

NY RIVERHEAD — A Long Island man was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for killing his girlfriend's 4-year-old son because the boy urinated in his truck.

Shawn Clark, 38, was sentenced after a jury found him guilty last month of second degree murder for the Feb. 1, 2003, beating death of Isaiah Silver.

The Suffolk District Attorney's office said Clark was angry that he had to bring the boy along on a date with his girlfriend, Tabitha Clark, 25. The boy urinated in his truck on the date.

Prosecutors said Shawn Clark punched the boy in the stomach after the three returned home from a trip to Brooklyn. The next day, the boy began throwing up and stopped breathing.

Teacher faces jail time

WV CHARLESTON — Susanna Robinson, a sixth-grade teacher in Monroe County, faces a fine of up to \$1,000 and 90 days in jail because she propped open her classroom door with a rubber doorstop.

An assistant fire marshal issued the state fire code violation citation and confiscated the doorstop during a visit to Mountain View Elementary and Middle School in Union. No court date has been set.

Possible market move

OH CINCINNATI — Some tenants of Ohio's oldest municipal market say they'll consider moving across the Ohio River into Kentucky because of rising rent and a requirement to open on Sundays.

Vendors at Findlay Market face a Dec. 17 deadline to sign leases for 2005.

The market says the move to mandatory Sunday hours reflects how people shop today.

Teen gets probation

FL MARCO ISLAND — Accused as the ringleader of a planned violent attack on his high school, a 16-year-old boy received probation after apologizing for what he described as a joke among friends.

Circuit Judge William Blackwell agreed to withhold a conviction for Russell Mescal on the misdemeanor charge to which he pleaded no contest in October, disruption of a school function at Lely High

School.

The sheriff's office began investigating after a fourth-grader alerted an elementary school youth relations deputy that he had overheard his sister talk about several older boys making "a blood pact" and talking about killing people, court records show.

Workers may strike

MA LAWRENCE — Seven hundred workers at Malden Mills Industries could go on strike after the mill's largest union voted 231-198 to reject the company's final three-year contract offer.

The textiles company gained national renown in 1995 when the owner decided to keep workers on the payroll after a fire destroyed the company's main factory.

Davis returns to law

CA LOS ANGELES — Former Gov. Gray Davis, recalled by California voters a year ago, has returned to law practices as attorney with Loeb & Loeb in Los Angeles.

Davis, 61, will work in the 10-lawyer firm's corporate group and assist its partners in "developing business relationships," said Loeb & Loeb co-chairman John Frankenheimer.

Objection over fire

CO ESTES PARK — City Trustee David Habecker may lose his seat in a recall election for sitting silently during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Habecker, a former president of the Lion's Club and a town trustee for 12 years, said he objects to the words "under God."

The pledge, written in the 1892, didn't include those words. They were added in 1954 during Sen. Joe McCarthy's pursuit of communists, Habecker said.

He said he is basing his stand on Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, which says no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office.

Opponents organized a recall election drive and an election date will be set soon.

Tough as steel

FL ST. PETERSBURG — A hand-dipped, hand-dipped raspberry truffle in chocolate inside a new shop as seven men have been tugged at the 10,000-pound Mosler safe sitting nearby.

It had taken four hours and snapped two pieces of metal equipment just to move the massive green safe 15 feet to the store entrance.

Built by the company whose safes withstood the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the safe almost rolled into the street at one point.

But the men from several safe-cracking companies accomplished what many had failed to do over the years: They got the Mosler safe out the front door for the first time in decades.

It has been a fixture in the building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, since about the 1920s or early 1930s.

Mosler Safe Co. of Hamilton, Ohio, folded several years ago. It also is known as the company that built vaults that hold gold at Fort Knox.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRT's Web site at <http://my.afm.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

	AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00	Stanley Little Log Lost	Movie *** "Video Vixen: The Susan Wilson Story" (2002, Drama) Anne Harmon, Jimmy Shand, Gabe Mottel	Dr. Phil	Jacoby	Nightline	College Basketball Connecticut at Massachusetts (Taped)	30-Minute Movie	Jacoby
9:30	Sagwa-Simmer Cat			Headline News	Headline News		Easy Entertaining-Chanelle	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)		(6-8) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNs	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Decorating Cents	ESPNs
10:30	Between the Lions (E)		(3-5) Guiding Light	Advisory Block			The Look for Less	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Simmer Cat	(10-16) Movie *** "Absolute Power" (1987, Clint Eastwood)	King of the Hill	King of the Hill	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	El Niño Live	King of the Hill
11:30	Stanley Thompson Party	A master thief stumbles into a presidential conspiracy.	(7-9) General Hospital	The King of Queens	The King of Queens		The King of Queens	The King of Queens
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	The Apprentice	PrimeTime Thursday	Rodeo Wrangler National Finals: From Las Vegas (Taped)	That '70s Show	The Apprentice
12:30	The Wiggles "Footman"		Judge Judy	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (H)	Fox and Friends		Charmed "Witches in Tights"	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (H)
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Love Story 1971" (1971, Robert Redford)	Today's Show	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (H)	Fox and Friends		Ally McBeal "There's a Crowd" (Part 1 of 2)	Pacific Report
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)			Pacific Report			Any Day Now "One Hour of Drama"	The Tonight Show
14:00	Blue's Clues "Shoos Play"	Based on Edith Segal's novel about star-crossed students.	Headline News	The Tonight Show	American Morning	NFL Game of the Week	ER "A Hopeless Wonder"	Headline News
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)	(2-5) Movie *** "Search for Bobby Fischer" (1993, Daniel J. Bressan)	Headline News	Access Hollywood	CNN Live Today	Pardon the Interruption	Law & Order "DWB"	Access Hollywood
15:00	Funnies Home Videos		Headline News	The Late Late Show	FOX News	Inside the NFL	The Simpsons	The Late Late Show
15:30	Full House "The Graduates"	(2-5) Movie *** "Search for Bobby Fischer" (1993, Daniel J. Bressan)	Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
16:00	Pokemon "Here's a Crowd"		Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL	Charmed "Hyde School Reunion"	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
16:30	Yo!Yo! "Double Duel"		Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL	Boston Public Chapter Thirty Eight	Entertainment Studios.com
17:00	AAahh! Real Monsters	Kim Catrall, Revealed Kim Catrall	Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL	Friends	Friends
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL	Seinfeld "Yada Yada"	Oobi
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Hollywood Backstories	Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL	The Daily Show	Oobi
18:30	Negrals	entertainment Tonight	Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL	Clifford's Puffy Days (E)	Clifford's Puffy Days (E)
19:00	All Grown Up (Part 2 of 2)	Movie *** "Can't Hardly Wait" (1999, Jennifer Love Hewitt, High-school seniors look at a wild graduation party.	Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL		
20:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Movie *** "Can't Hardly Wait" (1999, Jennifer Love Hewitt, High-school seniors look at a wild graduation party.	Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL		
20:30	Drake & Josh "First Crush"		Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL		
21:00	That's So Raven		Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL		
21:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL		
22:00	Switched "Steven and Kyle"		Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL		
22:30	Radio Free Roscoe		Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL		
23:00	The Cosby Show		Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL		
23:30	Home Improvement		Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	Inside the NFL		

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2004

00:00	AAahh! Real Monsters	(11-30) Movie *** "Money Talks" (1997) Chris Tucker	All Grown Up (Part 2 of 2)	Headline News	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball Philadelphia Flyers at Chicago Bulls: From the United Center in Chicago. (Live)	Blue Planet	All Grown Up (Part 2 of 2)
00:30	Rocket Power		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Powerpuff Girls	NBC Nightly News		Charmed "Hyde School Reunion"	Dave the Barbarian
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(12-50) Movie *** "Rudy" (1993, Sean Astin, NFL wide receiver, High-school seniors look at a wild graduation party.	College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	ABC World News Tonight		Boston Public Chapter Thirty Eight	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
1:30	Negrals		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Operation Junkyard (E)	CBS Evening News		Switched "Steven and Kyle"	Drake & Josh "First Crush"
2:00	All Grown Up (Part 2 of 2)		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
2:30	Dave the Barbarian		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
3:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
3:30	Drake & Josh "First Crush"		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
4:00	That's So Raven		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
4:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
5:00	Seamless Street (E)		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
5:30	Barney & Friends Water (E)		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
6:00	Blue's Clues (E)		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
7:00	Planet's Funniest Animals		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
7:30	Amazing Animal Videos		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
8:00	Ulo & Stitch "Tank"		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
8:30	Theme Supreme (E)		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
9:00	Static Shock "Gear"		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
9:30	Kim Possible "Partners" (E)		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
10:00	Ten Titans		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
10:30	Tenage Mutant Ninja Turtle		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
11:00	Dragonball GT		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
11:30	Justice League		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
12:00	Ten Kids News (E)		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
12:30	Tutenstein (E)		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
13:00	Endurance "Hillside" (E)		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
13:30	Scout's Safari "Shark" (E)		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
14:00	Animal Kidding		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
14:30	Most Extreme "Dads" Some Animal Tales		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
15:00	Most Extreme "Dads" Some Animal Tales		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
15:30	Hercules: The Legendary Journeys "All That Gitters"		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
16:00	AAahh! Real Monsters		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
16:30	Rocket Power		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
17:00	SpongeBob SquarePants		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
17:30	Negrals		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
18:00	Movie "It's a Very Merry Mapnet Christmas Movie" (2002, Comedy) Whoozy Goldberg		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
18:30	Movie "It's a Very Merry Mapnet Christmas Movie" (2002, Comedy) Whoozy Goldberg		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
19:00	Movie "It's a Very Merry Mapnet Christmas Movie" (2002, Comedy) Whoozy Goldberg		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
20:00	Movie "It's a Very Merry Mapnet Christmas Movie" (2002, Comedy) Whoozy Goldberg		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
21:00	Movie "It's a Very Merry Mapnet Christmas Movie" (2002, Comedy) Whoozy Goldberg		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
22:00	My So-Called Life "Resolutions"		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
22:30	The Simpsons		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe
23:00	The Simpsons		College Football Teams to be Announced. (Live)	Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Radio Free Roscoe	Radio Free Roscoe

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Living the Blues

Alison Krauss feels kinship with music after 20 years of bluegrass

BY JOHN GEROME
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — For many entertainers, growing older is a liability and age is best kept a secret.

Not for Alison Krauss. The 33-year-old says the years help deepen the well she draws from to sing about other people's lives.

"I think the older I get, the more I'm able to relate to the songs I'm singing," she says. "I've been doing this since I was a teenager, and I had a very nice childhood. [But] you're not going to sound like you've lived much if you haven't."

Last month, she and her bluegrass band Union Station released their latest album, "Lonely Runs Both Ways."

Krauss describes it as their most emotional work yet, with songs that explore transition ("Goodbye Is All We Have"), lost love and loneliness ("Borderline"), and spirituality ("A Living Prayer").

Her somber, breathy vocals come across like a gray November day on the Gillian Welch/David Rawlings composition "Wouldn't Be So Bad" and on other ballads such as "Doesn't Have to Be This Way" and "If I Didn't Know Any Better."

The album's title is taken from the lyrics to "Borderline," and it sets the tone: "So you're on your own / Looking down the road / That goes only by one name / And you don't need the signs / To see lonely still runs both ways."

Krauss' band keeps things from getting too morose. There's the uptempo Jerry Douglas-penned instrumental "Uninuous Branch" and Dan Tyminski's twangy delivery on covers of Woody Guthrie's "Pastures of Plenty" and Led Zeppelin's "Rain, Rain Go Away."

Ron Block sings on the self-penned "I Don't Have to Live This Way."

Four of the 15 songs were written by Krauss' friend Robert Lee Castleman, a

former truck driver whose "The Lucky One," "Let Me Touch You for Awhile," and "Forget About It" were previously popularized by Krauss.

"They all sound like classics but they don't sound like anything else, which doesn't make any sense," Krauss said of Castleman's work. "But the next time the chorus comes around you know it. And you think you've known it your whole life."

Krauss spoke at her management office while her 5-year-old son, Sam, played in the next room. She was dressed casually in denim overalls and a T-shirt with her hair pulled up and wearing little makeup — more like a busy mom than a superstar singer who's won more Grammys than any female artist (17, one more than Aretha Franklin).

"He goes with me everywhere, and that's awesome," she says of Sam. "I thought 'Oh my God, how lucky I am that I can do that.'"

Krauss grew up a fan of classic rock bands like AC/DC and Aerosmith in Champaign, Ill., about 140 miles south of Chicago, and began playing violin at her mother's suggestion.

"My mom and dad wanted to put my brother and I in everything — art classes, sports. One of the things we were going to do is take an instrument for five years, and she chose the violin for me because my brother had the piano already. They bought me a book, and I listened to records. I made a tape of whatever song I wanted to learn and would play it like 35 times."

She soon was winning ribbons and trophies at bluegrass fiddle contests. She began performing in a bluegrass group when she was only 12, and by 16 released her first album, "Too Late to Cry."

As well as anyone, Union Station has managed to stay true to its bluegrass roots while appealing to country and even pop listeners.

They've recorded the traditional "Down to the River to Pray" and Ralph Stanley's "Heaven's Bright Shore" — as well as Bad



Bluegrass musician Alison Krauss performs on the fiddle with her band Union Station at the FleetBoston Pavilion in Boston in this May 31 photo.

Company's "Oh, Atlanta" and the Allman Brothers' "Midnight Rider."

In the process, they've sold 7 million albums — an extraordinary number for a bluegrass band.

"They've turned a lot of people on to the music and caused a lot of people to want to go out and learn how to play," said Dan Hays, executive director of the International Bluegrass Music Association.

Of their crossover appeal, Hays said: "I don't think they're purposely trying to make music to appeal to a certain audience. I think they're just making the best music they know how to make and the music that's in

their hearts. The music is what's most important to them. If it goes platinum, they're all the happier for it, but it's not their motivation."

While purists may scoff at the band's instrumentation, choice of material or their mass commercial success, Krauss doesn't worry.

"It's not that I don't think, 'Oh we're going to get nailed for that one,' because I think about that, too," she says. "But the people that I want to impress are those guys I play with every night. If they like the kind of tunes I may bring to the table — and I know Ron [Block] feels the same way — if they like it, we're OK."

Red carpet treatment for Jones Reynolds

There's just no keeping Star Jones Reynolds off Hollywood's red carpets.

Jones Reynolds will chat with nominees and guests as they arrive at the Beverly Hilton when she hosts E! Entertainment Television's two-hour "Live From the Red Carpet: The 2005 Golden Globe Awards" on Jan. 16.

"I have watched [the show] for years as a fan," she said in a statement Tuesday. "To be able to participate in all the fun and excitement now as the host is a dream come true."

Jones Reynolds, who has a daytime gig as a co-host of ABC's "The View," first stepped on the carpet for E! in September at the Emmys Awards.

She replaced Joan and Melissa Rivers after the mother-daughter duo took their acerbic fashion commentary to the TV Guide Channel in July.

Jones Reynolds married banker Al Reynolds in a star-studded Park Avenue ceremony in New York last month.



Jones Reynolds

Roberts richest of the rich

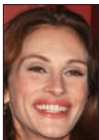
Julia Roberts is a mommy with big money.

The 37-year-old actress, who recently gave birth to twins, tops The Hollywood Reporter's annual list of the highest-paid actresses. Her paycheck per film: \$20 million.

"Charlie's Angels" star Cameron Diaz, also with a \$20 million price tag, ranked second because her face was missing from the big screen this year (though her voice was featured in the animated "Shrek 2").

Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon and Drew Barrymore, worth \$15 million each, filled the top five, followed by Halle Berry (\$14 million), Sandra Bullock and Angelina Jolie (both earning \$12 million to \$15 million per film), and Renee Zellweger and Jennifer Lopez (\$12 million each).

The Women in Entertainment issue also includes a paycheck tally of "Five Breakout Performers." Kirsten Dunst is No. 1 at \$8 million, followed by Lindsay Lohan (\$7.5 million), Jessica Alba (\$3 million), Mandy Moore (\$3 million)



Roberts

and Sarah Michelle Gellar (\$2 million).

Casualties in 'War of the Worlds'

A crew that was filming scenes for Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds," based on H.G. Wells' novel about an invasion from outer space, lost a few extras in the Connecticut River last weekend.

Two adult-size mannequins got free and drifted south down the river during filming on the riverbank in Windsor, Conn., said Windsor police Lt. Shannon Haynes.

Despite a search by the movie production's water safety crew, the mannequins weren't recovered, and other police departments along the riverfront were alerted.

"We just wanted them to know that if they got any calls about bodies floating in the river," Haynes said Monday. "But we never heard anything about them being found."

Spielberg and Tom Cruise shot sequences across the state last week, including several scenes at an old chemical plant in Naugatuck.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Spielberg

Horoscope

This morning, the moon joins the sun's party in Sagittarius, and energies line up to prepare for tomorrow's compelling new moon. Getting the most of this powerful transit requires introspection and personal time. Figure out the area in your life you most like to improve, and be ready to take your first action to that end tomorrow.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 10). You'll succeed where others have failed! Ingenuity takes you into new territories this year. Leap into a romance this month — you're especially compatible with Libra and Taurus. Couples embark on a joint mission that isn't easy, but the gold at the end is well worth the adventure. Education gives you a new way to make money this spring.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are moving from a grandiose vision to the implementation of specific objectives. Roll up your sleeves — you're in for some fun! Beware of someone who gives a compliment and asks for a favor at the same time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maybe your ambitions are veering away from your original idea, but who's to say your new aims won't be more fun to accomplish anyhow? Be willing to see yourself as someone with talents the world has yet to discover.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you've got the work to make things happen, they happen all right. So instead of focusing on doing everything yourself, get out there and do what you do best — schmooze! Be sure to collect contact information on new people.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your friends are your wealth. You may think you don't have time to make any more, but the stars disagree and send new prospects your way. Your habit of giving people more than they expect pays off big time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are cheeky, experimental, zany to the extreme. You'll either be lauded as a

genius or wind up in somebody's "Fashion Don't" file. Either way, your attitude attracts the best and the brightest to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Get rid of the worn-out things in your life — clothes, household items and emotional baggage. You're anything but sentimental now, so it's the ideal day to purge. Just make sure the stuff is nowhere you can go retrieve it tomorrow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Calls come from people who are in the know about the latest research, the way you're supposed to be doing your job, the technology you're not up on, but it's all a distraction. You've got a handle on things. Just concentrate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your social status is on the rise, and so is your confidence. The nervous energy has left your body. Say something positive about someone behind his or her back. It will be obvious the praise is genuine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a time crunch. The only way to get it all done is to condense every encounter to its pure essence — no time for gossip or wallfing! Do keep all appointments, though — there are hidden costs to not doing so.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Love is the theme. You're aware that life can be lived at many levels of consciousness. You feel free to fly and dip into various mental states now that you are not so concerned about your own security.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're eager to make a deal, and the last thing you want to do is ask for the opinion of a disinterested party — but that's the thing that's going to help you the most. Making a decision from a feverishly excited state is too risky.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your ESP tells you change is on its way. To keep your emotional balance, you detach. Part of you is getting ready to sever a tie, and the other part isn't sure if it's going to let you follow through. By Sunday, one side wins.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



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Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



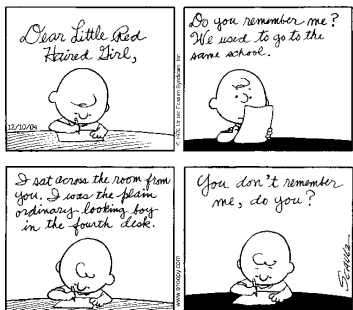
Red and Rover



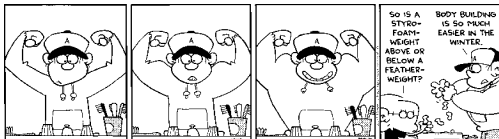
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Footrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



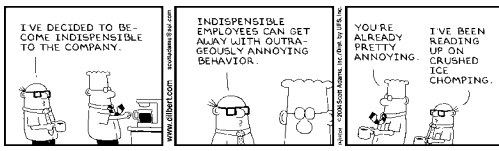
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



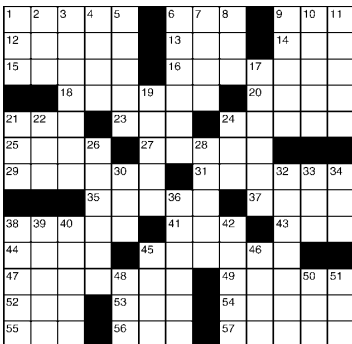
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Ready to rumble
- 6 Pinafire abbr.
- 9 Wrong (Pref.)
- 12 Schroeder's prop
- 13 Verily
- 14 Hostel
- 15 Rum recipe
- 16 "Evita" star
- 18 Gilligan's home
- 20 Bad aroma
- 21 Pompous sort
- 23 Zsa Zsa's sis
- 24 Torment
- 25 "Let's Make a Deal" option
- 27 Spritlike
- 29 Family namesake
- 31 Errand-running assistant
- 35 Delicious
- 37 Icicle's place
- 38 Opening night
- 41 Bambi's aunt
- 43 Drops on the grass
- 44 Corn lily
- 45 Snarl
- 47 Fill-in-the-blanks game
- 49 Hold the scepter
- 52 Bygone days, once
- 53 West of Hollywood
- 54 Goosebump-raising
- 55 Pigs' digs
- 56 Museum stuff
- 57 Wipe out

Down

- 1 Suitable
- 2 "Flying Down to —"
- 3 Fourth President
- 4 Holmes' creator
- 6 Choir book
- 7 Anthropologist
- 8 Blue
- 9 Clementine's dad was one
- 10 More central
- 11 Serpentine
- 12 Valencia, e.g.
- 19 States with conviction
- 21 N. modifier
- 22 Old French coin
- 24 Waste no time
- 26 Ceremony
- 28 Swashbuckling star
- 30 Bran source
- 32 Portuguese wine
- 33 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 34 Fresh
- 36 Wonderland service
- 38 They ain't worth a nickel
- 39 Praise to the skies
- 40 Hen
- 42 Match
- 45 Ski lift
- 46 Ogier's look
- 48 — "Yankee ..."
- 50 Joe's barracks mates?
- 51 Bom

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-10

CRYPTOQUIP

ML SP KMUCD OEYNC MR
 LOXD - WQDUCDK . M
 RXOQRC PQX WQXEK RYP

M CYN RGXYDC SCYER.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU BELIEVE
 THAT A VERY POPULAR SOAP OPERA SHOULD
 BE DUBBED A HOT SERIAL?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

Should adult actress lie about job?

Dear Abby: I star in adult films. I am not ashamed of what I do, but sometimes other people's reactions to my profession can be severe.

I am trying to get my 4-year-old daughter, "Ashley," accepted into an exclusive religious day care. The problem is that on the application I have to state my profession, as well as my father's. My husband, "Rex," is also in the adult film industry. Rex thinks we should just lie. I want my daughter to be accepted, but I know Ashley will be turned down if they find out we lied on the application. What do you think?

—**"Tempest"** in L.A.
Dear Tempest: You don't have to lie. State that you're in the movie business. Just don't mention that the movies you're in are "blue," and cross your fingers that you don't run into any fans.

Dear Abby: Our 31-year-old son is being married soon in the

Midwest. We would like to know what our financial responsibilities are—if any—regarding the costs of the wedding, in light of the following:

1. Our travel expenses will be about \$1,500, plus an additional \$500 for hotel and food.

2. Although 100 guests are invited, we do not know them, as they are all friends and relatives of the bride and her parents.

3. We are giving our son and his bride a gift of \$1,000.

4. We have no say in the planning of the wedding.

We want to do what is right, but we don't want to pay unless tradition or etiquette demands it.

Please advise.

—**Puzzled Parents in Oregon**
Dear Puzzled Parents: As though it is customary for the groom's parents to host the rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding. The bride's mother can help you select an appropriate restaurant.

Dear Abby



Older woman has no desire for sex

Dear Annie: I am in my 50s and happily married to my wonderful husband, "Bart," for 30 years. For a long time now I have suffered from a problem that he does not have, namely a total lack of desire for sex.

Since I entered menopause, the problem has gotten worse. I've been to doctors who say there is nothing physically wrong. I've been on hormone-replacement therapy for a couple of years to alleviate some of my menopausal symptoms, but it hasn't helped with this particular problem. I tried counseling, but Bart said it wasn't doing any good and it was very time-consuming, so I stopped.

I have read books and magazine articles on the subject, and used some home remedies.

We used to make love nearly every day, but in the past couple years, his desire has toned down quite a bit, so now we average only two or three times a week.

Annie's Mailbox



It's still too much.
—**Need a Solution, Please**

Dear Need a Solution: You should know that two or three times a week at your age is above the national average, and if our mail is any indication, you're getting a lot more than many of our readers.

Remedies for a woman's lack of libido still are in the developmental stage. If your doctor can't help you, ask him or her to refer you to someone who specializes in female sexuality, or contact the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors & Therapists (AASECT), P.O. Box 5488, Richmond, VA 23220-0488 (aasect.org).

Dear Annie: I am sick to death of reading letters from people who are complaining about not getting a gift or a card, something. So what? Maybe some people are not financially able to purchase a gift.

Dear Abby: Two former teachers made an incredible impact on my life. Both encouraged me to stretch far beyond what I thought possible for myself.

A few months ago, I finally contacted my old high school to see if I could locate them. To my dismay, I learned that one had been killed in a car accident the year before, and the other had gone to the hospital last spring and passed away without ever going home.

I feel terrible. I never had the chance to tell two wonderful people how much they mattered. Please urge your readers to stop right now and make that call. We may never have the chance again.

—**Too Late in Cleveland**
Dear Too Late: That's a lesson I'm sorry you learned the hard way. Kind thoughts are meant to be shared; they do no one any good if you keep them to yourself.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby>
Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YUJIC

PULIT

NARREB

COALJE

Answer here: " " THE " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXERT LIMBO FROLIC SUCKLE
Answer: When the pigeons invaded the town square, they brought a — FLOCK OF TROUBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

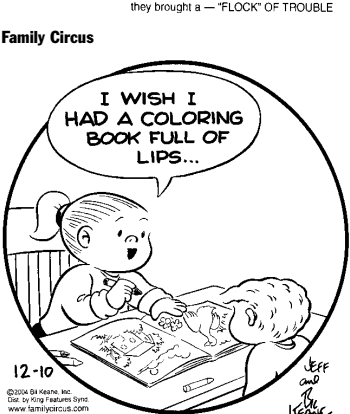


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

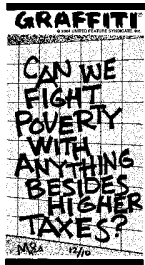
Answer here: " " THE " " (Answers tomorrow)

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Family Circus



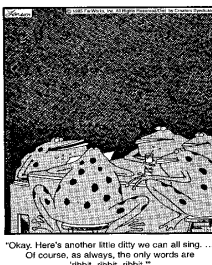
12-10
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www.familycircus.com
"... Then I could start practicin' with lipstick."



Domis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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What was YDC doing 25 years ago?
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SCOREBOARD

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Friday

AFTN-Sports, 9 a.m. — College basketball: Connecticut at Massachusetts (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, noon — NBA: Minnesota at New York.
AFTN-Sports, 3:30 p.m. — NFL: NFL Films Game of the Week (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 6 p.m. — Golf: Target World Challenge, second round.

Saturday

AFTN-Airline, 1 a.m. — College football: NCAA Div. I-A semifinal game, James Madison at William and Mary.
AFTN-Airline, 1:30 a.m. — NBA: Memphis at Miami.
AFTN-Sports, 2 a.m. — NBA: Philadelphia at Miami.
AFTN-Pacific, 4 a.m. — College basketball: Alabama-Birmingham at Oklahoma St. (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 4:30 a.m. — College football: Auburn-Birmingham at Oklahoma St. (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 9 a.m. — College basketball: Auburn-Birmingham at Oklahoma St. (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, noon — Rhode: National Football League.
AFTN-Sports, 3 p.m. — NBA: Portland at Utah of Arizona.
AFTN-Sports, 6 p.m. — College basketball: Louisville at Arizona.
AFTN-Pacific, 7 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn-Birmingham at Oklahoma St. (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn-Birmingham at Oklahoma St. (T-1).
AFTN-Sports, 8 p.m. — College basketball: NCAA Division I-A semifinal game, James Madison at William and Mary.
AFTN-Sports, 9 p.m. — College football: NCAA Division I-A semifinal game, James Madison at William and Mary.
AFTN-Sports, 10 p.m. — College football: NCAA Division I-A semifinal game, James Madison at William and Mary.
AFTN-Pacific, 11 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn-Birmingham at Oklahoma St. (T-1).

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	East					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
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N.Y. Jets	10	0	0	.909	324	171
Buffalo	9	6	0	.600	260	224
Miami	2	10	0	.167	196	269
	South					
Indianapolis	9	3	0	.750	431	263
Jacksonville	6	6	0	.500	260	263
Houston	5	7	0	.417	236	289
Tennessee	4	8	0	.333	231	294
	North					
Pittsburgh	11	1	0	.917	273	184
Baltimore	6	6	0	.500	263	277
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.500	268	272
Cleveland	3	9	0	.250	240	308
	West					
San Diego	9	3	0	.750	339	238
Denver	7	5	0	.583	271	212
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	241	265

Richardson's three lifts Phoenix to 11-3

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Quentin Richardson's three-point play in 19 seconds remaining capped a 21-point effort and overshadowed Kobe Bryant's second triple-double in many games as the Phoenix Suns beat the Los Angeles Lakers 113-110 on Wednesday night.

The Suns improved to 16-3, tying Seattle for the NBA's best record. The 1980-81 Suns also won 16 of their first 19 under coach John MacLeod and finished 25-5.

Phoenix has won nine of 10 on the road and six straight — the Suns' longest road winning streak since 1997-98, when they won seven straight. Last season, they didn't get their ninth road win until March 23. Two more would match their total for last season.

The Suns have won their last seven road games against Western Conference opponents, including their final one last season.

Bryant had 20 points, tied a season high with 11 assists and grabbed a season-high 14 rebounds en route to his 12th career triple-double, third this season and second in two meetings with Phoenix. The Lakers are 29-8 when Bryant reaches double digits in assists, including 3-3 this season. This was his fourth straight game with at least 10.

Bryant also had a triple-double Friday night against Golden State, getting 10 points, 10 assists and 12 rebounds in a 97-90 win. Joe Johnson had 25 points for the Suns, Amare Stoudemire 23 points and 10 rebounds, and Shawn Marion 19 points. The Lakers were 16-0-34 on three-pointers.

Tierre Brown made a layup and a short baseline jumper 17 seconds apart and Brian Cook followed with a long baseline jumper, extending the Lakers' seven-point lead to 107-94.

The Suns, who opened a 21-0 run against the Warriors Tuesday night and an 18-0 run against the Clippers on Nov. 21, pulled ahead 109-107 with 15 consecutive points in a 3:45 span — including back-to-back three-pointers by Shawn Marion and one each by Johnson and Steve Nash.

Nash, having scored 2:56 to play had the Lakers on their heels, and Richardson put the Suns back in front with a pair of free throws that capped the rally. Butler made a layup at the other end before Stoudemire made one of two free throws for the Suns.

Bryant, who had only one free throw attempt, at that point, missed the first and made the second to tie it at 100. The Suns in-bounded after a timeout with 28 seconds left, and Nash drove the Suns back, kicking it out to Richardson — who hit nothing but net from behind the arc for the game winner.

Bryant attempted a three over Marion at the buzzer, but the shot hit the right side of the rim as the buzzer sounded.

The Lakers, who blew a 17-point lead to the Suns in a 107-102 loss at Phoenix on Nov. 19, didn't take their first lead



Roundup

until Bryant's three-point play put Los Angeles ahead 83-82 with 42.3 seconds in the third quarter. Butler's three-point capped the Lakers' pivotal 17-4 run with 2:09 left in the quarter.

The Suns, who came in averaging a league-leading 108.3 points a game, used 17 points from Johnson and 13 by Richardson to take a 67-61 lead at half.

Pistons 90, Raptors 86 (OT): At Auburn Hills, Mich., Richard Hamilton scored six of his 19 points in overtime for the Pistons. Toronto's Vince Carter to a strained left Achilles' tendon in the opening minute of the second half. His status for Toronto's game against Denver on Friday night was not immediately known.

Timberwolves 119, 76ers 84: At Philadelphia, Eddie Griffin scored a career-high 27 points, and Latrell Sprewell had 24 in his return from a one-game suspension for Minnesota.

Sprewell shot 9-for-14 after being suspended a game by the NBA for yelling a sexual vulgarity at a fan in Los Angeles on Saturday night.

For the Sixers, who lost their sixth straight.

Nuggets 111, Wizards 105: At Washington, Andre Miller had a season-high 21 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists to lead Denver. Gilbert Arenas led Washington with 28 points, and Dwyane Wade added 27 points in 11 rebounds.

Grizzlies 97, Hawks 89: At Atlanta, Paul Gasol scored 24 points to lead Memphis to its third win in four games under new coach Mike Fratello. Antoine Walker had 31 points for the Hawks.

Heat 101, Bucks 96: At Milwaukee, Shaquille O'Neal scored eight of his 18 points in the fourth quarter for Miami. Udonis Haslem made all 12 of his free throws and finished with 20 points for the Heat, who improved to 11-2 against the Eastern Conference.

Knicks 86, Hornets 79: At New Orleans, Stephon Marbury had 22 points and nine assists to help New York end a three-game losing streak and drop the Hornets to 0-9 at home. Lee Nailon and reserve guard Dan Dickau led New Orleans with 17 points each.

Bulls 113, Cavaliers 85: At Chicago, Eddy Curry scored 20 points, and rookie Ben Gordon added 21 to help the Bulls cap a three-game losing streak and end Cleveland's three-game winning streak. LeBron James scored 19 points for the Cavaliers.

Orlando Magic 100, Jazz 100: At Salt Lake City, Cuttington Mobley scored 26 points and hit a clutch three-point in the final minute, and Orlando extended Utah's losing streak to six games. Carlos Boozer led the Jazz with 29 points and 10 rebounds.

Pacers' image takes a hit after Detroit brawl, charges

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Pitches have been exchanged, video played and new charges filed.

For the Indiana Pacers, it's been a long three weeks since a brawl with Detroit fans scarred the image of what was once considered one of the NBA's model franchises.

Five Pacers players and seven fans were charged Wednesday for fighting in the stands and on the court on Nov. 19.

Pacers Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, David Harrison and Anthony Johnson all were charged with one count of misdemeanor assault and battery, and could face up to three months in jail if convicted.

Three-time All-Star Jermaine O'Neal was charged with two counts of assault and battery.

Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh has called the brawl one of the low points in sports and in the fran-

chise's history. Johnson said the melee was "unfortunate, because it's definitely a team built around turning the corner and challenging for a championship, and at the same time being comprised of good guys."

"Definitely, the image of this team will take a hit after what happened in Detroit ... that, combined with the behavior of the past two or three years," Johnson said in a veiled reference to Artest's troubles in recent seasons.

The shocking images broadcast on a seemingly continuous loop since the fight broke out have tarnished the team's image. Artest was suspended for the rest of the regular season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25 for their roles in the melee.

Century left Foster still struggles to understand why a skirmish between Artest and Pistons center Ben Wallace escalated into one of the worst cases of player-on-violence in U.S. sports history.

"For whatever reason, that night — the way the game was going, what the score was, the rivalry between the two teams — the crowd and the team met at a point that unfortunately it happened and hopefully never will again," Foster said.

"The whole thing has become such a circus. Something that no team's ever dealt with before. Everybody's just trying to put it behind themselves and just go on to playing basketball."

"They've had little luck with that. The injury and suspension-depleted Pacers have lost five games in a row, the longest streak under second-year coach Rick Carlisle.

Carlisle said he doesn't think the franchise's image has been ruined.

"I still see this franchise as one of the real shining pillars in this league," he said. "In my mind, this situation, and how we get through it, is going to prove that again."

Bryant surprised by Malone's reaction

The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Kobe Bryant would love to have Karl Malone back with the Los Angeles Lakers, and he believes comments he made in a recent radio interview were misunderstood.

Bryant also said Wednesday that he tried to call Malone "and squinted all out of my eye."

Malone's agent, Dwight Manley, said Tuesday that his client had ruled out a return to the Lakers because of what Bryant said in the radio interview and what the agent called "recent personal attacks made in private."

Bryant said he was shocked by Malone's reaction.

"I meant nothing by it. It wasn't directed toward him," Bryant said after the Lakers' shoot-around. "I'd love to have him back here, everybody would. If he wants to come back and play, the door's always open."

"This is the time of place he should be playing. I'm happy to hear he's 100 percent. And in no way what I said was directed toward him or a personal attack. It's felt some type of way about that, then I apologize."

But Bryant also said: "It is what it is, and I want to move on with the team we have here."

Manley said Malone was fur-

Briefs

ous" and "felt very disrespected" after hearing of an account of what Bryant told XTRA radio in an interview Monday.

Bryant told the radio station he didn't think that Malone, who underwent surgery on his right knee last summer, would return to the Lakers, calling it "just intuition." Bryant also said the uncertainty wasn't fair to his teammates.

"I think he took what I said the wrong way," Bryant said Wednesday. "Maybe he didn't hear it, maybe he ran off with what somebody else was saying. If I felt like (Malone) was a distraction, I would have said it. I didn't say anything like that."

Malone told KCBS-TV late Tuesday that he didn't "want to be anyone's distraction."

Bryant said his relationship with Malone has "always been cool."

NBA will not participate in hearing over suspensions

NEW YORK — In a change of legal strategy, the NBA won't participate in a grievance hearing about the suspensions four Indi-

ana Pacers received for last month's brawl at the arena against the Detroit Pistons.

The hearing before arbitrator Roger Kaplan will be a one-sided affair Thursday.

The hearing arbitrator has no authority to consider this matter, there is no point in our attending any hearing that he conducts," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said.

The NBA's lawyers say Commissioner David Stern has sole authority — and is the only avenue of appeal — for discipline related to on-court behavior.

Previously, the league indicated it would not argue whether Kaplan has jurisdiction but would take part in the portion of the arbitration hearing that deals with the underlying case of whether Stern had just cause to hand down some of the longest fight-related suspensions in league history.

Stern suspended Ron Artest for the remainder of the season for his role in the Nov. 19 fight. Stern banned Stephen Jackson for 30 games, Jermaine O'Neal for 25 games and Anthony Johnson for six games.

Artest, O'Neal and Jackson are expected to attend the grievance hearing. Stern was expected to be called as a witness, but the league's refusal to participate will keep that from happening.

Sonics: Seattle snaps Spurs' home streak at 21

SONICS, FROM BACK PAGE

Mamu Ginoobili scored 18 and Tony Parker 16 in San Antonio's first home loss since March. Duncan had 10 rebounds.

The winning streak ended one game short of the team record of 22 straight in 1999.

Down 60-41 at the half, the

Spurs went on a 23-8 run to open the third to put to 68-64 with three minutes left in the period.

Duncan accounted for 12 of San Antonio's points during the run.

His four baskets in the quarter were one more than the entire Seattle team (3-for-12).

Leading 31-29 after one period,

the SuperSonics got their advantage into double digits with a 14-2 run to tie the second.

Later in the period, Seattle used an 11-2 spur to build a 56-37 lead with less than three minutes left in the half.

Stern suspended Ron Artest for the remainder of the season for his role in the Nov. 19 fight. Stern banned Stephen Jackson for 30 games, Jermaine O'Neal for 25 games and Anthony Johnson for six games.

Mia Hamm, right, ended her 17-year career with the U.S. women's national soccer team on Wednesday in Carson, Calif., in a friendly match against Mexico, which the U.S. won 5-0. Hamm has a world-record 158 goals in international play. Midfielder Julie Foudy and defender Joy Fawcett also ended their careers for the U.S. team.

AP



Emotional send-off for Hamm, Foudy

BY KEN PETERS
The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — The security guards were trying to hustle Mia Hamm off the field, but she was having none of it. Making a U-turn, Hamm headed directly to a group of young fans seated in the stands who were screaming for her autograph.

"We all understand there's a bigger perspective," she said. "We want to make sure this game and these girls go forward together."

Hamm and Julie Foudy closed out their remarkable careers with the U.S. women's soccer team in style Wednesday night, cheered on by droves of young girls in a 5-0 victory over Mexico.

"It's hard to believe that it's over. Julie was crying, I'm crying," Hamm said. "I'm extremely blessed."

Foudy said it really hit her that it was her last game in a U.S. uniform as she walked down the tunnel before the game.

"It was a special night," she said. "I was thinking that this was the last time I will hear the national anthem before I go out on the field."

Hamm, the career leading scorer for the American women, assisted on the first two goals in the friendly match against the Mexican national team.

Foudy, meanwhile, played her usual dominating role in the midfield.

Hamm, 32, and Foudy, 33, took the field for the last time in the finale of a 10-game "Fan Celebration Tour."

Longtime teammate Joy Fawcett, 36, also is retiring, but was unable to play because she is recuperating from back surgery.

Playing before a crowd of 15,449 who were yelling their names throughout the match, Hamm, Foudy and Fawcett smiled and waved to the fans after the final whistle.

The three were honored in a

pre-game ceremony and were presented with framed jerseys with their numbers on them and bouquets of roses.

The trio left quite a legacy, including the 1999 World Cup victory over China that drew 90,000 to the Rose Bowl and attracted a TV audience of 40 million.

While those three were playing, the United States won two World Cup championships and two Olympic gold medals, including in Athens last summer.

Hamm wore a jersey bearing her husband's name. Chicago Cubs shortstop Nomar Garciaparra, in the second half, Garciaparra and his family were in the stands.

"I wasn't expecting that," said Hamm, who was touched that the Garciaparras joined her family at the game. "That was special."

Hamm, who finished her career with 158 goals, came close to scoring several times, including bouncing a shot off the crossbar in the first half and having a close-range shot blocked by the goalkeeper in the second half.

Ally Wagner and Abby Wambach each scored two goals for the United States, which led 4-0 at halftime.

On the first U.S. goal, Hamm displayed the ballhandling skills that served her so well during her storied career. She took a pass in the right corner of the box, started dribbling to her left, then to her right, feinted back to her left, then curved an off-balance deflection.

With goalkeeper Pamela Tajonar sliding to her left to cut off the angle, Hamm rolled a perfectly paced pass across the center of the box and a charging Wambach drove a shot into the open left side of the net.

Hamm also assisted on the second score, this time showing her accuracy from the corner. Her curling corner kick sailed just over the goalie's outstretched hands and right into the center of the box, where Wambach headed the ball into the open net.

Chiefs' Holmes out for season

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas City Chiefs' star running back Priest Holmes will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury.

NFL briefs

Holmes, who was leading the NFL in scoring and rushing when he got hurt in early November, was placed on injured reserve Thursday.

The Chiefs (4-8) indicated Wednesday they would probably finish the year without Holmes, whose recovery from sprained knee ligaments has gone much more slowly than the team hoped.

"Priest Holmes is making steady progress on the rehabilitation of his right knee," Chiefs President Carl Peterson said in a statement. "Unfortunately, that rehabilitation is taking longer than originally anticipated, meaning Priest is running out of time to be healthy enough to play in 2005."

Holmes was the NFL's player of the month for October, when he had three 100-yard rushing games, rushed for nine touchdowns and caught 10 passes for 170 yards and a touchdown. That put him on pace to be the first NFL player to score 20 or more touchdowns rushing in three consecutive seasons.

He ends 2004 with 892 yards rushing in 196 carries, with 15

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See page 18 for complete injury report provided by the league):
Redskins LB LaVar Arrington (knee) questionable.
Steelers WR Plaxico Burress (hamstring) questionable.

touchdowns. He also caught 19 passes for 187 yards and one score.

Colts WR Harrison agrees to six-year, \$66 million deal

Marvin Harrison agreed to a six-year, \$66 million contract with the Indianapolis Colts on Wednesday that includes a \$22 million signing bonus, according to a source within the league who requested anonymity.

The star receiver is making \$5.56 million this season.

Harrison, 32, who set an NFL record with 143 receptions in the 2002 season, has 826 receptions in nearly nine seasons with the Colts after being their first-round draft pick in 1996. Earlier this season, he passed the 800-catch mark faster than any receiver in NFL history.

He and Peyton Manning have also combined for more completions than any other quarterback and receiver, passing Jim Kelly and Andre Reed of the Buffalo Bills. They are second in career touchdowns to Steve Young and Jerry Rice of San Francisco.

Rattay, Barlow out for 49ers

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Tim Rattay and Kevin Barlow will sit out the San Francisco 49ers' game at Arizona on Sunday, leaving the NFL's worst team without its starting quarterback and running back.

Rattay has a torn fascia muscle in his right foot. He must keep weight off his foot for two weeks, coach Dennis Erickson said Wednesday.

Barlow sustained a concussion during Sunday's loss at St. Louis. Ken Dorsey will make his fourth start of the season in Rattay's place. Maurice Hicks, on the 49ers' practice squad until last month, will get his first NFL start in Barlow's spot.

Browns to start QB McCowen

BEREA, Ohio — Although Jeff Garcia is listed as probable on Cleveland's injury report and in interim coach Terry Robiskie says he is "90 percent healthy," rookie Luke McCowen will make his second career start Sunday when the Browns face the Buffalo Bills.

"We told him that we thought Luke went out this weekend (against New England) and did a pretty decent job," Robiskie said. "We wanted to give Luke another week." (The Jeff) said he was fine with it."

Garcia, who has a strained right shoulder, was not available for comment Wednesday.

NHL labor talks set to resume

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Any hope of saving the NHL season hinges on whether the next proposal by the players' association stirs serious negotiating.

The NHL owners, who yielded five months of silence and hundreds of canceled games.

When NHL officials and union leaders return to the bargaining table Thursday, it will mark their first talks since Sept. 9.

That's when the players' association put forth a luxury tax-based system that was rejected by the league because it didn't provide the cost certainty the NHL seeks.

Commissioner Gary Bettman imposed a lockout a week later that has wiped out 382 games — and forced the cancellation of the All-Star Game.

A two-day window is blocked out for fans, but if things don't go well Thursday, there will be no need for a session Friday.

"I'm very hopeful," Detroit forward Brendan Shanahan said Wednesday, following a rules summit that he convened. "This is the third work stoppage in my career in the last 12 years."

With the season slipping away, the NHLPA invited the league back to the table and promised to be armed with a new proposal in an effort to keep the NHL from becoming the first major North American league to lose an entire season.

"We are looking forward to the meeting and are very confident that our proposal will provide a basis to end the owners' lockout and resume NHL hockey with a new CBA that can work for both owners and players," Vancouver forward Trevor Linden, the NHLPA president, said in a statement Wednesday.

Arenas have been given the go-ahead by the league to free up dates previously reserved for hockey on a 45-day rolling basis, which as of now means there are 45 NHL games before the middle of January.

Clippers not expected to play in Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — Former world No. 1 Kim Clijsters is not expected to play in the first Grand Slam of 2005 while she continues to recover

from an injury to her left wrist.

Australian Open chief executive Paul McNamee said the Australian Sports Management company does not expect her to play, but the players' union further doubt on her availability on her Web site.

Clijsters, the 2004 Australian Open runner-up, was limited to just 22 matches this season and fell to No. 22 in the most recent rankings.

Elis trails by one in Dunhill Championship

MALELANE, South Africa — Bruce McDonald of Zimbabwe shot 6-under 66 Thursday to take a one-shot lead over Senegal's Amadou Elie in the PGA European Tour's season-opening Dunhill Championship.

While most of the field struggled to break par at the Leopard Creek Country Club, McDonald mastered the unexpected cool, blustery conditions in the first round after a week in which temperatures soared above 100 degrees.

Former NFL receiver Rison jailed for failure to pay child support

DECATUR, Ga. — Former Pro Bowl receiver Andre Rison was jailed Wednesday in DeKalb County for failure to pay child support.

Rison, 37, who spent 12 seasons in the NFL with Indianapolis, Atlanta, Cleveland, Jacksonville, Green Bay, Kansas City and Oakland, was sentenced to jail until he pays \$127,000 to a woman with whom he has two sons.

Rison, a five-time Pro Bowl selection who was MVP of the 1994 Pro Bowl, was sentenced to an additional 20 days in jail for violating a court order to pay \$3,500-a-month child support for his 16-year-old and 18-year-old sons since August 2002.

Tyson accused of jumping on car in Arizona

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor criminal damage for allegedly jumping on the hood of a car outside a nightclub, police said.

Tyson, who moved to Scottsdale early this year, appeared with attorneys at the city's police station Tuesday afternoon and was released after being given a citation.



Peyton Manning needs four TD passes to tie Dan Marino's record of 48 in a season. Manning will face revenge-minded Houston on Sunday.

Texans primed for Colts

Manning accused of running up the score last time

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans were plenty embarrassed when Peyton Manning threw five touchdown passes against them in a 35-point rout.

Even more humiliating to the Texans was that Manning and the Indianapolis Colts seemed to still be going for points instead of running out the clock in the final minutes of the lopsided game.

"The whole game left a bad taste in our mouth," Houston offensive tackle Todd Wade said of the 49-14 defeat on Nov. 14. "It was embarrassing. Them throwing the ball deep on the last play. That was tough. That's definitely motivation."

Still smarting, the Texans would like to keep Manning from breaking the NFL record for touchdown passes in a season when the teams meet Sunday in Houston.

Manning needs four TD passes to tie Dan Marino's 20-year-old record of 48. During the Colts' five-game winning streak, Manning has thrown for fewer than

four touchdowns only once — in Indianapolis' 51-24 victory over Tennessee on Sunday.

With that kind of success and the Texans' recent struggles on defense, most people are pointing to this week as the one when Manning surpasses Marino.

The Colts might want to bring their own confetti and champagne, though. Houston isn't in the mood to host a celebration.

"You want to be record-setters," cornerback Dunta Robinson said. "You don't want anyone to set a record against you and at your house."

The game has the makings of a colossal mismatch.

Houston ranks last in the NFL in touchdown passes allowed with 29 and ranks 28th of 32 teams in yards allowed. The Texans also are last in sacks, meaning Manning should have plenty of time to wait for his talented corps of receivers to work themselves free in the Texans' zone defense.

That's what happened in Indianapolis last month.

Up by 35 points in the fourth

quarter, Manning continued to throw the ball against a team that was clearly beaten. When it was finally over, the Texans were already pointing to their next matchup as a chance to quiet the trash-talking Colts.

"I kind of took that personal, being that I thought the Colts were 'classier,'" linebacker Antwan Peek said. "They smeared it in our face last time."

Even more upsetting to some of the Texans was that Manning and many of Indianapolis' other starters stayed in the game until the end.

"I've been watching the rest of their games, and they've taken all those guys out," said Robinson, who lost his composure in the fourth quarter of that game and drew a personal foul penalty. "I just didn't understand why they kept them in at the end of the game against us."

Defensive end Gary Walker, one of the first to accuse the Colts of running up the score, doesn't care if Manning gets the record Sunday.

"As long as we have one more point than they have, then I don't care what happens," Walker said.

Rice upset that others get notice as he gets sacks

BY FRED GOODALL
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The passion in Simion Rice's voice rose with every word, though it never reached the level of anger.

That's because the NFL's most prolific pass rusher over his past 50 regular-season games insists it no longer bothers him that he

doesn't receive the recognition he thinks he deserves for being one of the best to ever play his position.

The Tampa Bay star looks at others getting defensive ends built in the same mold — tall, athletic, speedy — and sees players he believes are far more celebrated, even though they are essentially following in his footsteps.

No offense to Jevon Kearse and Jason Taylor, but Rice's said he set the standard for today's pass rushers and has the numbers to prove it.

"There were other great pass rushers before me and I'll always pay homage to them. But the basketball-type. The big man who runs 4.4 or 4.3 I was the first one out of the gate," Rice said.

Last Sunday, the 30-year-old Rice became the 22nd player in league history to record 100 sacks, reaching the milestone in just his 139th game. He joined

"I've always done beyond the glory, but never got the real glory for it. But I've accepted that."

Simion Rice

Tampa Bay defensive end

Michael Strahan, who has 118 in 175 games, as the only active players in the exclusive club.

Since the 11th game of 2001, Rice has an NFL-high 46½ sacks, including eight this year to stay on course for his seventh season with at least 10. His average of 11.6 per season is the highest among active players, with Strahan (10.3) the only other player in double-digits.

"But they've yet to say, it was the best year he's ever done it. And I know I am," Rice said.

The third pick in the 1996 draft, Rice had 51½ sacks in five seasons for the Arizona Cardinals be-

fore signing with Tampa Bay as a free agent in 2001 with a reputation as an outstanding pass rusher who was weak against the run.

Playing on the same line with perennial Pro Bowl tackle Warren Sapp, Rice was second in the league with 15½ sacks in 2002, helping the Bucs win the Super Bowl. He was second again in 2003 with 15, earning his third trip to the Pro Bowl.

Still, the ninth-year pro said when people start talking about the game's top pass rushers, he's routinely left out of the discussion.

He believes one of the reasons is he's a free spirit who rubs some people the wrong way because he's speaks his mind.

Others, he said, are hesitant to give him his due because they mistakenly feel he doesn't work hard.

"To people who see from afar, the only thing that shows up on Sunday is the talent level. In their minds, I don't have to do all the things necessary to play at the level I do. They don't see me staying after practice for hours," Rice said.

"I started understanding early on that being heralded is more glitter than gold. ... This league creates heroes and villains, and it's where you fall. I was vilified because I said Arizona was the epitome of the NFL, which it was, from an organization standpoint.

No players really wanted to go there and play, and no coaches really wanted to go there and coach."

No longer playing next to Sapp, who signed with Oakland, Rice got off to a slow start this season. Facing persistent double teams for the first time since his days in Arizona, he had one sack in the first five games.

Instead of making excuses, the 6-foot-5, 268-pound Rice vowed the sacks would come. He's had seven in the past seven games, including two against Michael Vick on Sunday in a 27-0 rout of Atlanta.

Noting that Rice possesses rare speed and quickness for a man his size, Vick recalled the defensive end as a "freak of nature."

Coach Jon Gruden can't understand why Rice is not a household name.

"I don't know if it's because he's in Tampa or what. He's a great, great player with a great work ethic. To get 100 sacks in nine years is phenomenal," Gruden said.

Rice has sacked 38 quarterbacks, and surprisingly didn't take any added satisfaction in getting No. 100 against the most elusive scrambler in the league.

When he dropped Vick for a 4-yard loss early in the second quarter, he didn't celebrate. He was stunned when the officials stopped the game and gave him the ball.

"I've always done beyond the glory, but never got the real glory for it. But I've accepted that," Rice said. "I feel a guy like Reggie White should be even more upset than me. They don't celebrate him enough. ... And, until they celebrate a cat like that, they're sure not going to celebrate a cat like me."

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Giants plan to celebrate milestones by Bonds

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Giants will honor Barry Bonds' home run milestones and other achievements as they always have — with great fanfare.

"There are a lot of things we're pleased to" executive vice president and chief operating officer Larry Baer said Wednesday.

"The bottom line is, we want to have a chance to make clear that we're continuing to recognize him and represent him as we have in the past. When we open the season in 2005, we're going to recognize his historic milestones, and those by any Giant, appropriately and in a major way."

On Tuesday, a top official in the commissioner's office said baseball was holding off on plans to market Bonds' pursuit of Hank Aaron's home run record, a decision made after a report of the slugger's grand jury testimony about steroids.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, said a meeting was canceled because of the commissioner's office and MasterCard International, a corporate sponsor it was courting for the campaign.

"I don't mean Bonds won't receive plenty of recognition during his pursuit to become home run king, Baer said.

"I want to remove this notion that Barry's being back from Barry at this point," he said.

Bonds also signed deal this week to appear on Topps baseball cards. Bonds did not appear on Topps cards last year after he



An official in the commissioner's office recently said baseball was holding off on plans to market Bonds' (above) pursuit of Hank Aaron's home run record, a decision made after a report of the slugger's grand jury testimony about steroids.

opted out of the marketing plan of the Major League Baseball Players Association.

"Barry's trading cards have always been highly collectible and we are thrilled to have him in our 2005 lineup," Topps' vice president Warren Fries said.

The deal grants Topps exclusive rights among trading card companies for autographed baseball cards, game-used memorabilia cards and use of Bonds' image on packaging and advertising.

Bonds, the seven-time NL MVP who also has repeatedly denied steroid use, testified to the grand jury that he used a clear substance and a cream given to him by a trainer who was indicted in the BALCO investigation, but said he didn't know they were steroids. Prosecutors allege those substances were performance-enhancing drugs.

The 40-year-old Bonds has 703 career homers, trailing only Babe Ruth (714) and Aaron (755). Giants haven't announced specifics for how they will celebrate Bonds' accomplishments but are in the planning process.

The firm also has provided services on the development of non-baseball projects in San Antonio, Denver and Indianapolis.

Some members of the D.C. Council, which takes a final vote Tuesday on the \$531 million stadium financing package, have expressed concern about a potential conflict of interest involving the Reinsdorfs.

Councilman Adrian M. Fenty, an opponent of the baseball deal, raised questions about Jerry Reinsdorf's role as head of Major League Baseball's relocation committee. That panel recommended that the Expos be moved to Washington from Montreal beginning with the 2005 season.

The recommendation was conditionally ratified by baseball owners during a telephone conference call Friday. Approval was conditioned on enactment of legislation to authorize financing committee with the agreement signed in September by the Expos and Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams.

Lieber, Leiter, Williams move asteams scramble for starters

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jon Lieber agreed to a deal with the Philadelphia Phillies. Al Leiter returned to the Florida Marlins and Woody Williams went back to the San Diego Padres as teams moved quickly to grab starting pitchers Wednesday after the first free-agent deadline of the offseason passed.

Lieber left the New York Yankees, agreeing to a \$21 million, three-year contract with Philadelphia, and Leiter departed the New York Mets with some degree of acrimony, for an \$8 million, one-year contract from Florida.

Williams, part of The St. Louis Cardinals' NL pennant-winning team, is guaranteed \$3.5 million by the Padres as part of a deal that could be worth \$14.5 million for two years.

The Yankees didn't waste any time filling Lieber's spot in the rotation, closing in on a \$21 million, three-year contract with Jaret Wright. New York also has a preliminary agreement with second baseman Troy Lomax on a \$4 million, two-year deal.

Dustin Hermanson left the San Francisco Giants for a \$5.5 million, two-year contract with the Chicago White Sox, catcher Brian Anderson left the Boston White Sox for a \$550,000, one-year deal with Texas, and reliever Matt Mantei moved on from Arizona for a \$750,000, one-year deal with the Boston Red Sox.

Forty-one free agents, the highest total since late 1985, were offered salary arbitration by their former teams before the season's midnight deadline. They have until Dec. 19 to accept the offers and can re-sign through Jan. 8.

Players receiving 168 free agents are barred from going back to their old teams until May 1, meaning they almost certainly will play elsewhere next year. That group includes first baseman Carlos Delgado (Toronto); outfielder Steve Finley (Los Angeles); outfielder

Baseball free agent roundup

Magliejo (Orlando White Sox); and pitchers Eric Milton and Kevin Millwood (Philadelphia).

Several players agreed to re-sign just before the deadline, including pitcher Ugo Rodriguez, who got an \$18 million, two-year contract from the Minnesota Twins. St. Louis agreed to one-year deals with pitchers Matt Morris (\$2.5 million) and Cal Eldred (\$600,000).

Williams
along with outfielder John Mabry (\$7.5 million).

Before heading to the winter meetings, which start Friday in Anaheim, Calif., several teams were looking to replace pitching.

Lieber, 35 in April, spent last season with the Yankees, going 14-8 with a 4.33 ERA in 27 starts. He was 1-1 with a 3.43 ERA in three playoff starts for the Yankees, and got more effective later in the season as he regained arm strength following 2002 elbow-ligament replacement surgery.

Lieber gets a \$1 million signing bonus and will earn \$5.25 million in 2005, \$7.25 million in 2006 and \$7.5 million in 2007.

"I look forward to bringing this ballclub back into playoff contention," Lieber said. "I'd like a taste of that last year, and I'd like that to continue."

Lieber joins former All-Stars Randy Wolf and Vicente Padilla, Brett Myers and Carlos Lir in a rotation that is losing Milton and Millwood.

"He's a great competitor who's going to go out there and get us deep into games and not give in to hitters," Phillies general manager Ed Wade said.

Leiter, 30-8 with a 3.21 ERA last season, returned to the team he helped pitch to the 1997 World Series title.

"This thing has had a good feel to it, right from the start," Marlins General Manager Larry Beinfest said. "It has taken a while to get to this day, but we were all on the optimistic. We really wanted it."

The 39-year-old left-hander had spent seven years with the Mets, who offered a one-year deal worth \$4 million to \$5 million during talks Leiter described as "convoluted and fuzzy."

Leiter said he believed the Mets weren't "upfront" and "forthright." He was jettisoned as part of a makeover under new general manager Omar Minaya that includes the departure of relievers John Franco, Mike Stanton and Ricky Bottalico and outfielder Richard Hidalgo.

"I have a lot to say with Al one day and he pretty much asked a good question," Minaya said. "He asked, 'Do I want him on the team?' How do I see him in the plan? As the general manager, you've got to make some tough decisions and this is one of the hard decisions that I had to make."

Williams, 38, was 11-8 with a 4.18 ERA for St. Louis last season, going 2-5 before winning 10 of his last 15 decisions. He started the opener of all three postseason series for the Cardinals.

Williams pitched with San Diego from 1999 until he was dealt to St. Louis for outfielder Ray Lankford and cash in a waiver deal shortly after the trading deadline. He started as the team's closer after Manager Jerry Towers called that trade the worst he's ever made.

Wade must pass a physical to complete his deal with the Yankees, and Wright's representatives and the Yankees have to finalize contract language. New York still hopes to sign at least one more starter, and is talking with Carl Pavano and Milton.

Washington stadium could profit Post Sox owner's son

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A company run by the son of Chicago White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf could earn millions providing consultant services to the District of Columbia government on plans for development of a baseball stadium in the city.

International Facilities Group is a leading contender for a \$3.7 million Reinsdorf.

Michael Reinsdorf is the managing partner and co-founder of IFG, which was established in 1995. The firm provides management and development services to municipalities and professional sports owners.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that over the past nine years IFG has been involved in the development of several major league ballparks including Comerica Park in Detroit, Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati, the Florida Marlins Baseball Stadium in Miami and Miller Park in Milwaukee.

3B Glaus signs with Diamondbacks

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — All-Star third baseman Troy Glaus agreed Thursday to a four-year contract with the Arizona Diamondbacks, who hope the 2002 World Series MVP will rebound from a season cut short by an injured shoulder.

Glaus, 28, was a three-time All-Star for the Anaheim Angels but hit just 14 home runs and 42 RBIs this year. He had shoulder surgery May 21.

We have stated that the out-set to whether that intention was to return this organization to the competitive prominence we enjoyed in the early stages of the franchise, and the addition of a player of Troy's caliber gets us headed in that direction," Diamondbacks' managing partner Ken Kendrick said.

Glaus led the AL with 47 homers in 2000, then hit 41 the following year. He has had three 100-run seasons, but shoulder injuries have slowed him the past two seasons.

Briefs

Arizona went 51-111 last season, won only three years after winning the World Series. The Diamondbacks tied for the 10th-most losses in major league history.

Dye agrees with White Sox
CHICAGO — Outfielder Jermaine Dye and the White Sox agreed Thursday on a \$10.15 million, two-year contract, giving Chicago a replacement for Magliejo Ordonez in right field.

Dye hit .265 with 23 home runs and 80 RBIs in 137 games with Oakland last year. He has hit 20 or more home runs five times and has three 100-RBI seasons.

The 30-year-old Dye has a career .272 average with 161 home runs and 611 RBIs in 1,039 games over nine major league seasons with Atlanta, Kansas City and Oakland.

Dye will make \$4 million next year and \$5 million in 2006.

Red Sox slugger Ortiz will not play in winter league

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz will not play this winter with the Escondido Lions in his native Dominican Republic because of a nagging injury in his right shoulder.

Ortiz said Thursday he wants to rest so his shoulder is ready for spring training.

"I feel a very strong discomfort in the shoulder. I'm sorry I can't play winter ball this season," said Ortiz, who had played with Escondido for seven consecutive seasons dating back to 1997.

"I have to get well to be healthy when the major league camps start."

Ortiz, MVP of the AL championship series, had his best season in the majors with a .301 average, 41 home runs and 139 RBIs.

White's twin peaks

Oklahoma QB has chance to win back-to-back Heismans after leading Sooners to second straight BCS title game

BY JEFF LATZKE
The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Growing up in a small Oklahoma town, Jason White would try to throw a football through a tire. Usually, he'd miss. But there was this consolation: He sure could run.

So when White played the sport in first grade, he was a running back.

After reconstructive surgery on both knees, White can't scamper around the way he used to. But he sure can throw. And the Oklahoma Sooners quarterback has a shot to become just the second player in history to win the Heisman Trophy twice.

Back in school as a sixth-year senior after winning the 2003 Heisman, he's also in the unusual position of having a say in who claims the 2004 award Saturday — past honorees get a vote.

Still, another nice individual trophy isn't foremost in White's mind.

"It doesn't really matter to me," he said. "I came back for a couple reasons, and winning the Heisman wasn't one of them."

Maybe that's why, at one point this season, White said he'd cast

his vote for teammate Adrian Peterson, a freshman tailback. White has reiterated that he wouldn't feel comfortable voting for himself.

White and Peterson were two of five Heisman finalists announced Wednesday, joined by Southern California teammates Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, and Utah's Alex Smith.

In two seasons as Oklahoma's starting QB, White has thrown for 6,807 yards and 73 touchdowns while leading the Sooners to consecutive undefeated regular seasons. Unlike last season, White helped Oklahoma win the Big 12 championship game. Oklahoma (12-0) will play USC for the national title in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4; last season, the Sooners lost the Bowl Championship Series title game to LSU.

White has been the steady force for the Sooners this season.

When they found themselves trailing Kansas State, White threw two second-half touchdown passes. And when Texas A&M appeared headed for an upset, White tossed three TDs after the break.

Overall, he completed 65 percent of his passes for 2,961 yards and 33 touchdowns with only six

interceptions this season. He threw for 3,846 yards and 40 touchdowns a year ago. All those numbers make him a candidate to succeed Ohio State running back Archie Griffin (1974-75) as a two-time Heisman winner.

Compared to last season, White says he thinks he's played "smarter" — taking care of the ball and understanding the offense better.

"His poise and the way he's managed the game this year is far better than last year," OU offensive coordinator Chuck Long said. "We were done by halftime in a lot of games last year, so he never got to experience some adversity until it was too late. He's dealt with adversity a lot better this year."

Long considers the Texas A&M game White's shining moment. The then-No. 22 Aggies led visiting Oklahoma by two touchdowns on three occasions, but White kept bringing his team back. He finished with five touchdown passes as the Sooners came back a 28-14 deficit to win 42-35.

"That was the one signature game that you said as a coach, 'He has improved from last year,'" Long said. "He has grown and matured from last year."



Jason White (2,961 yards, 33 TD passes, six INTs) can join Ohio State's Archie Griffin as the only players to win back-to-back Heismans.

When asked what he thinks makes his quarterback better this season, coach Bob Stoops points out that White is finally healthy.

Ailing legs limited his mobility and forced him to play out of the shotgun last season. Now he can take snaps from under center,

which makes Oklahoma's running game stronger, and White has an easier time scrambling.

"He was more of a scrambler before he was a pocket passer," Long said. "He had to redefine his game when he did get hurt to become more of a pocket passer."

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This year's Heisman finalists are doubled over

First time two players from two schools will make trip to New York

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason White has a chance to join Archie Griffin as a two-time Heisman Trophy winner.

White, the Oklahoma quarterback who won last year's Heisman, was chosen Wednesday as one of five finalists for college football's most prestigious individual title.

Joining White for Saturday's award ceremony in New York will be his Oklahoma teammate Adrian Peterson, Southern California teammates Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, and Utah quarterback Alex Smith.

It's the first time teammates from two schools were selected as finalists for the award.

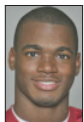
Among Heisman contenders who did not make the top 5 were Texas running



USC tailback Reggie Bush



USC QB Matt Leinart



Oklahoma RB Adrian Peterson



Utah QB Alex Smith



Oklahoma QB Jason White

back Cedric Benson, Auburn quarterback Jason Campbell and California teammates Aaron Rodgers and J.J. Arrington.

Griffin, a running back who played for Ohio State, won the Heisman in 1974 and 1975 and is the only two-time winner.

White was the favorite for last year's Heisman and beat out Pittsburgh wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald and Mississippi quarterback Eli Manning. This time, the race appears too close to call. White and Leinart, USC's quarterback, have put up similar numbers while leading their teams to 12-0 records and a matchup in the Orange Bowl for the national championship.

White comes to town after passing for 2,961 yards and 33 touchdowns, and in a much better mood than last year. A week before the '03 Heisman ceremony, the Sooners were upset by Kansas State 35-7 in the Big 12 title game and White had his worst game of the season.

This season, White threw three touchdown passes in Oklahoma's 42-3 rout of Colorado in the league title game.

The presence of Peterson, a freshman, helped White produce another fine season but may hinder the quarterback's chances of matching Griffin's feat. Peterson ran for 1,843 yards and 15 touchdowns, and produced his best games against the Sooners' toughest opponents.

No freshman has won the Heisman. White, a sixth-year senior, has a Heis-

man vote and said he planned to pick Peterson No. 1 on his ballot.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops can't decide between the two.

"These guys are tremendous. You see it every week. They complement each other with great running and passing — and it's made a major difference this year, the fact that we're strong in both," Stoops said.

"But a lot of these guys have helped them. So I wouldn't be the one to choose. It wouldn't be fair."

USC has a similar situation with Leinart and Bush. They complement each other, but could take votes away from each other.

Leinart has thrown for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns, with only six interceptions. He is the Trojans' steady leader.

The versatile Bush is their spectacular home-run hitting back. Bush's 15 touchdowns have come running, receiving and on returns. He has also thrown a TD pass.

"I think I might have shaken up the votes a little bit," he said after running for 204 yards, including TD runs of 81 and 65 yards, in USC's 29-24 regular-season-ending victory at UCLA.

Led by Smith, Utah became the first team from a mid-major conference to reach a BCS bowl game this season. The versatile junior has passed for 2,624 yards and 28 TDs and run for 563 yards and 10 touchdowns.

The Utes will play Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1.

Georgia DE Pollack tabbed best lineman

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Georgia defensive end David Pollack won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top college lineman Wednesday night, one year after being a runner-up for the honor.

Pollack edged out Shaun Cody of Southern Cal, Erasmus James of Wisconsin and Derrick Johnson of Texas for the 40-pound granite trophy. Last year he finished behind Oklahoma's Tommie Harris, who also who won the award on his second try.

"I tell you what, you don't want to be known as a two-time loser," Pollack joked. "I'm so proud to be honored this way ... I definitely couldn't have expected this."

Pollack had 48 tackles, including 9½ sacks and 14½ tackles for a loss, for No. 8 Georgia this season. He will lead the Bulldogs (9-2) against No. 16 Wisconsin (9-2) in the Outback Bowl on Jan. 1.

Once envisioned to be only a "good program guy" by Georgia coach Mark Richt, Pollack has turned out to be much more. "We thought he'd be a starter someday and do some good things," Richt said. "But we never dreamed he'd do the things he's done."

Pollack arrived at Georgia expecting to play fullback and spent his entire first summer in Athens getting ready to be a blocker, only to be shifted to defense just as fall workouts began because of injuries and a lack of depth on the line.

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Kentucky uses spurt to get past Morehead

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The score showed that Kentucky had one of its better defensive outings in recent years.

No. 10 Kentucky held an opponent to its lowest point total in almost six seasons Wednesday night, routing Morehead State 71-40.

The 40 points also were the Eagles' lowest total in 26 years.

Yet Kentucky coach Tubby Smith focused on the ragged shooting by the Wildcats (5-1) and the fact they didn't put away an overmatched opponent until the second half.

"Defensively, we did the job," Smith said. "We stopped some of the easy baskets and contested shots. We didn't foul as much, so those were some of the positive things we did."

"I'd like to see us shoot the ball better," he added, noting the 3-for-18 shooting from three-point range and 39.4 percent overall mark.

Kelenna Azubuike was one Wildcat who didn't struggle with his shooting. He finished 8-for-13 from the field and scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half, with three straight game highs at least 20 points.

Chuck Hayes had 10 points and 10 rebounds for Kentucky, which opened the second half with a 20-0 run. Reserve center Shugart Alleyne had 11 points, eight rebounds and six blocked shots — all season highs.

Morehead State (4-2) trailed only 29-23 at halftime, but the Eagles didn't get their first second-half basket until 11:07 remained. The Eagles — coached by Kyle Macy, a member of Kentucky's 1978 NCAA championship team — shot 27.3 percent from the field and committed 24 turnovers.

Morehead State had the fewest points by a Kentucky opponent since South Carolina lost 74-40 to the Wildcats in February 1999. It was the fewest points scored in a game by Morehead State since early in the 1978-79 season, when the Eagles had 37 in a loss to Indiana.

Josh Reed had 10 points for Morehead State.

Kentucky is 8-0 overall against Morehead State. The schools are about 65 miles apart.

Kentucky, which lost at No. 8 North Carolina on Saturday, won for the 17th straight time after a loss.

No. 19 Virginia 79, Furman 67: At Charlottesville, Va., Gary Forbes scored 21 points for the Cavaliers (7-1), who were coming off an 81-79 loss at Iowa State on Monday night and were playing for the fifth time in 11 days. Elton Brown added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Quan Prossell had 14 points for the Paladins (3-4).

Top 25 roundup

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and your families for
a very Merry Christmas
and a prosperous
Happy New Year.

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SPORTS



Chiefs RB Holmes out
for rest of the season
with knee injury, Page 30

Sonics silence Spurs

Seattle grabs
share of best
record in NBA

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan can be added to the list of those who believe the Seattle SuperSonics are for real.

The surprising Sonics built a big first-half lead Wednesday night against San Antonio, and then they got clutch scoring from Ray Allen down the stretch to hold on for a 102-96 victory over the Spurs.

"They're a very good team," said Duncan, who scored a season-high 39 points while leading a San Antonio comeback that petered out in the final minutes.

"Very well-coached—they execute well," Duncan said. "We have respect for them." Seattle's victory ended San Antonio's 21-game home winning streak and gave the Sonics a share of the NBA's best record at 16-3. Phoenix also improved to 16-3 after beating the Los Angeles Lakers 113-110 late Wednesday night.

It was also the Sonics' second win this season against San Antonio in as many tries, and both times they topped 100 points.

The best anyone else has managed against the Spurs, now 16-4, is 96 points.

Despite the two wins, Allen called San Antonio the league's best team and said the Sonics are still taking shape.

"Right now, we're just one of the teams with the best records," said Allen, who finished with 29 points, including a pair of three-pointers late in the game after San Antonio pulled to within a basket. "We've got to beat teams consistently to be talked about as one of the best teams."

Seattle looked like a runaway winner early, using 58 percent shooting from the floor to build a 19-point lead at the half.

"I think we came out more ready than they thought we would be," said Rashard Lewis, who scored 16 points for the Sonics. "We jumped on them early and everybody was making shots."

Seattle's defensive strategy of crowding Duncan inside and forcing the ball to the perimeter also worked in the first half.

San Antonio shot 38.5 percent before the break.

"It was really bad out there tonight for us," the Spurs' Manu Ginobili said. "The first half was awful."

But the Spurs came out running after the break, and eventual-



Seattle SuperSonics forward Rashard Lewis (7) maneuvers past San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker, right and forward Tim Duncan (21) during the second half in San Antonio on Wednesday. The Sonics won 102-96.

ly whittled Seattle's lead to 83-81 on a reverse layup by Malik Rose with 6:36 remaining. Allen followed with a three-pointer and Danny Fortson made two free

throws and a layup to make it 90-81.

After Rose made a jumper, Allen answered with a three-pointer off the backboard to

put Seattle up 93-83.

Antonio Daniels and Fortson each had 14 points for the Sonics.

SEE SONICS ON PAGE 29



Sooners' White
could become
second two-time
Heisman winner

Page 33



Soccer pioneer
Hamm retires
after 17 years
with U.S. team

Page 30



Lieber agrees to
three-year, \$21M
deal with Phillies

Page 32



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